UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

FEB 08 2001

A-18J

Dave Kolaz, Chief
Bureau of Air
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Dear Mr. Kolaz:

Due to a recent court decision, we find it necessary to withdraw our finding of adequacy for the motor vehicle emissions budgets in the Metro-East St. Louis, Illinois, ozone attainment demonstration State Implementation Plan (SIP) submitted on November 15, 1999, and supplemented on February 10, 2000. We believe it is necessary to withdraw our adequacy finding due to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit decision on August 30, 2000, that the implementation of the Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) SIP Call rule could not be required before May 31, 2004. The emission levels in the St. Louis attainment demonstration SIP were based on the assumption that transport of ozone precursors into St. Louis from upwind States would be addressed by May 2003, pursuant to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) NOx SIP Call. Without these regional NOx SIP Call controls in place in 2003, it is not clear that the Metro-East St. Louis area will be able to demonstrate attainment as described in the submitted SIP. For this reason, the motor vehicle emissions budgets for 2003 can no longer be considered adequate.

The notice of the adequacy determination that is being withdrawn was made on June 12, 2000, in a letter to the State and was published in the Federal Register on July 3, 2000. Adequacy findings are made pursuant to Section 93.118(e)(4) of the Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93, Subpart A). This withdrawal of the adequacy finding means that the submitted 2003 motor vehicle emissions budgets for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and NOx can no longer be used to make conformity determinations for the transportation improvement program or long range plan, however previous determinations remain valid. This withdrawal does not have any negative implications on the

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conformity process or the current transportation Plan and program. Any future conformity determinations should be conducted using the approved 1996 VOC budget and the build/no-build test for NOx.

In a November 8, 2000, letter EPA informed you of the need to review the Metro-East St. Louis attainment demonstration emissions and to submit revised budgets. The revised budgets are expected to be based on controls that will be in place by the year 2004. You have already submitted the revised emission inventory for the 2004 attainment date and we understand that Illinois will soon be submitting new 2004 attainment budgets for the Metro-East St. Louis area. Once we have determined that the 2004 budgets are adequate, they may be used in subsequent conformity determinations.

More information on SIPs and adequacy reviews is also available on the EPA's web site (www.epa.gov/otaq/traq/, then click on "conformity"). The EPA will publish a notice in the Federal Register announcing this withdrawal of the adequacy finding. If you have questions, please feel free to call me or Patricia Morris, of my staff, at (312) 353-8656.

Sincerely yours,

Cheryl Newton, Acting Director
Air and Radiation Division

cc: Dennis Lawler
Bureau of Air
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Michael Coulson
East West Gateway Coordinating Council

Carla Berroyer
Illinois Department of Transportation