JUN 29 2000

OFFICE OF AIR

STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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June 26, 2000

Chuck Clarke, Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA, Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

Dear Mr. Clarke:

On behalf of Governor Gary Locke, I am forwarding Washington State's recommendations for designations under the eight-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard. This submittal responds to EPA's request for submittal of recommendations by June 30, 2000, in its March 28, 2000, guidance on eight-hour designations.

Since all areas of the state either have not violated the eight-hour standard during the three-year period (1997-1999) or are not monitored, Washington State recommends that except for tribal lands, the entire state be designated "attainment/unclassifiable." Consistent with federal and state policy, we recognize that tribal lands are not affected, because tribes have authority over air quality within the boundaries of their reservations. The enclosure provides the designation listing we are proposing for 40 CFR Part 81. In accordance with the emphasis in EPA guidance on eight-hour ozone designations, the listing specifies those Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas or Metropolitan Statistical Areas where we are monitoring ozone. As requested, we are submitting the enclosure both in written form and in electronic form.

Should it be necessary to redesignate an area as "nonattainment" at some time in the future, we intend to evaluate the factors specified in the EPA guidance on eight-hour designations, and any other relevant considerations, before recommending a nonattainment area boundary.

If you have any questions about our recommendation, please contact Doug Schneider of Ecology's Air Quality Program at (360) 407-6874.

Sincerely,

Tom Fitzsimmons
Director

Enclosure

cc: Mary Burg, Ecology
Air Pollution Control Officers
Barb McAllister, EPA
Mahbubul Islam, EPA

TITLE: "State Eight-Hour Ozone Recommendations to EPA"

PROGRAM/REGION: Air Quality Program

DESCRIPTION: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued an eight-hour ozone standard in 1997. Federal laws require EPA to designate areas of each state for this standard this year. The designation process begins with a recommendation from the state. A designation of "attainment" means that an area meets the standard. "Nonattainment" means that an area violates the standard. "Unclassifiable" means that an area cannot be designated as either attainment or nonattainment because no monitoring data are available. Because the Clean Air Act treats attainment and unclassifiable areas in the same way, EPA has decided to use the designation of "attainment/ unclassifiable" for both types of areas. All areas of Washington either meet the eight-hour standard or are not monitored. The recommended designation for all areas of the state, except for tribal lands, is "attainment/unclassifiable." (Tribal lands are not affected because tribes have jurisdiction over air quality within the boundaries of their reservations.)

SIGNIFICANCE: Designation as attainment/unclassifiable reflects positively on the state's air quality. The designation has no effect on existing air quality rules or requirements. A designation of nonattainment, on the other hand, would require more stringent permitting requirements for point sources, a plan (and control measures) for bringing the area into attainment, and implementation of federal conformity requirements.

STATUS: The Air Quality Program has developed a formal recommendation for submission to EPA. The Program advertised the proposed recommendation in the State Register, in Seattle, Spokane and Vancouver newspapers, on the Ecology Rules Internet page, and through the Ecology Rules list server. The Program provided an opportunity for input through a public hearing held on June 14, 2000. One supporting letter was received from a local air authority. The recommendation is ready for submittal to EPA.

KEY PARTIES:

- Ecology and Local Air Authorities—the recommended designation does not trigger any new Clean Air Act requirements and associated resource needs.
- Business Community—permitting requirements don't change; the designation protects Washington's clean image and economic desirability.
- Health Community—the state meets a major federal health-based air quality standard.
- Environmentalists—the recommended designation is consistent with the goal of preserving and protecting Washington's environment.
- General Public—desires a clean and healthy environment.

RECOMMENDATION/TIMELINE: The recommendation should be signed by the Director and submitted to EPA by June 30, 2000 as requested by EPA.

STAFF CONTACT: Doug Schneider (360) 407-6874

URGENT?: Yes. EPA has requested the designations by June 30, 2000.

WASHINGTON – OZONE (8-HOUR STANDARD)

Recommended Designations for 40 CFR Part 81

Washington (except for tribal lands)
Attainment/Unclassifiable Areas:

- Seattle - Tacoma - Bremerton CMSA
- Spokane MSA
- Clark County part of Portland-Salem CMSA
- Bellingham MSA
- Rest of State