



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27711

SEP 20 2005

Melanie A. Marty, Ph.D., Chair
Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee
Cal/EPA, Office of Environmental Health
Hazard Assessment
1515 Clay St., 16th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

OFFICE OF
AIR QUALITY PLANNING
AND STANDARDS

Dear Dr. Marty:

Thank you for your letter of August 8, 2005, to Administrator Johnson, regarding the review of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM). As you know, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now in the process of reviewing the PM NAAQS. The Agency expects to complete its review and make decisions about the appropriateness of revising the standards by December 20, 2005.

In reviewing the PM NAAQS, EPA has conducted a thorough examination of the relevant scientific and technical information as summarized in the PM Criteria Document and Staff Paper. I would like to assure you that, in considering the appropriate level of the standards for PM, we share your concern about protecting the health of children. In your letter, you state that the NAAQS are primarily based on protecting the health of older adults. In fact, both children and the elderly have been included in the subpopulations considered to be potentially at greater risk. This was true in the last PM NAAQS review, which was completed in 1997, and remains true in the current review as well. The health of children will certainly be an important consideration in the Agency's decisions on the PM NAAQS.

As we move forward, EPA will carefully consider the recommendations of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee based on that body's review of the PM Staff Paper. Comments and recommendations received from other stakeholders, including the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee, will also be weighed heavily as we move forward in this process.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have additional questions or comments, please contact Mary Ross of my staff at (919) 541-5170. I appreciate the opportunity to be of service, and I hope that the information provided is useful to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Page".

Stephen D. Page
Director

Office of Air Quality Planning
and Standards