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February 25, 2013

PM Advance
c/o Laura Bunte, Mail Code C304-01
109 TW Alexander Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

Dear Ms. Bunte:

The Department of Health and Environmental Control (Department) wishes to participate in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Particulate Matter (PM) Advance Program. The Department has aggressively worked alongside South Carolina air quality stakeholders in multi-pollutant "Advance" type programs since 2001. Stakeholders have formed "Clean Air Coalitions" that focus on multi-pollutant strategies, regardless of the area's designation (attainment, unclassifiable/attainment, unclassifiable, or nonattainment). All stakeholders eagerly participate because of their continued commitment to promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment of South Carolina. Participation in the EPA's "PM Advance" program will continue to strengthen the commitments already established.

Based on current South Carolina air quality monitoring data, the state is currently demonstrating attainment for all of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), including the 2012 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter. Information regarding South Carolina's ambient air quality monitors is found in the yearly *Network Description and Ambient Air Monitoring Plan*.¹ In addition, South Carolina is fulfilling existing emissions inventory requirements.²

The Department recognizes EPA's providing preferred status to PM Advance participants when applying for existing grants programs such as the EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) program. This preferential treatment by the EPA on DERA or any other future grant opportunities should be applied state-wide in South Carolina upon receipt of this letter for PM Advance.

We look forward to your acknowledgement of receipt into the EPA's "PM Advance" program at which time we will provide additional information as requested. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our concerns, please contact Mr. Jack Porter at 803-898-3829 or porterje@dhec.sc.gov.

Sincerely,

Myra C. Reece,
Chief, Bureau of Air Quality

cc: Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming, Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region 4
Jane Spann, U. S. EPA Region 4
Robert Brown, SCDHEC Bureau of Air Quality
Jack Porter, SCDHEC Bureau of Air Quality

¹ <http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/baq/AmbientAirMonitoring>

² Air Emissions Reporting Rule (73 FR 76539) and SC Regulation 61-62.1, Section III (last updated May 27, 2011)