



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
SAM NUNN
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ATLANTA GEORGIA 30303-8960

July 20, 2010

Barry R. Stephens, P.E., Director
Air Pollution Control Division
Tennessee Department
of Environmental Conservation
9th Floor, L and C Annex
401 Church Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Dear Mr. Stephens:

Thank you for the July 14, 2010, submittal of the final redesignation request and maintenance plan for the Knoxville, Tennessee 1997 8-hour ozone area (hereafter referred to as the "Knoxville Area"). The Knoxville Area is comprised of the entire counties of Anderson, Blount, Jefferson, Knox, Sevier and Loudon as well as the portion of Cocke County that falls within the boundaries of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Originally, on June 11, 2010, you provided the Knoxville Area 1997 8-hour ozone maintenance plan as a state implementation plan (SIP) revision for parallel processing.

Pursuant to Section 93.118(e)(4) of the Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93, Subpart A), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed Tennessee's ozone redesignation request and maintenance plan for the Knoxville Area as well as the motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEBs) contained in the maintenance plan which were developed with the MOBILE6.2 emission factor model. We have determined that these MVEBs are adequate for transportation conformity purposes.

Tennessee's 1997 8-hour ozone maintenance plan for Knoxville has MVEBs for both volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) for the year of 2024. These MVEBs are presented in the table below.

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 8-HOUR OZONE MVEBS

[Tons per day]

	2024
NO_x	36.32
VOC	25.19

EPA opened a comment period on the adequacy of the MVEBs contained in the Tennessee 1997 8-hour ozone maintenance plan for Knoxville by posting the availability of the

SIP on our website on June 15, 2010, (See www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/transconf/currrips.htm.) The comment period for the adequacy of the MVEBs closed on July 14, 2010. No comments were received during EPA's adequacy comment period.

More information on SIPs and adequacy reviews is available on the EPA website. EPA will publish a notice in the Federal Register announcing our adequacy finding for the newly established Knoxville, Tennessee MVEBs in the very near future. The Federal Register notice will also announce the date that the adequacy finding becomes effective. The MVEBs will be available for use in Knoxville, Tennessee on the effective date.

EPA notes that the District of Columbia (DC) Circuit Court issued a decision on July 11, 2008, vacating the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR). North Carolina v. EPA, 531 F.3d 896 (D.C. Cir. 2008). On September 24, 2008, EPA and other parties in the case filed motions for rehearing asking the D.C. Circuit to reconsider its decision in the case. On December 23, 2008, the court granted EPA's motion for rehearing to the extent it agreed to remand CAIR without vacating it. However, the court made no other changes to the July 11 opinion, remanding the case to EPA for further rulemaking consistent with this opinion. Therefore, the CAIR rule remains in place, but EPA must promulgate another rule consistent with the court's July 11 opinion. EPA has reviewed these MVEBs in light of the remand of CAIR and concluded that the budgets meet the conformity rule's adequacy criteria found at 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4). In particular, EPA has concluded that the MVEBs satisfy the requirements of 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4)(iv) which requires that MVEBs, when considered together with all other emissions sources, are consistent with applicable requirements for maintenance. The reduction in VOC and NOx emissions in the future years remains below the attainment level of VOC and NOx emissions in the Knoxville 1997 8-hour ozone area even without the CAIR reductions.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Richard A. Schutt, Chief, Air Planning Branch at (404) 562-9033.

Sincerely,



Carol L. Kemker
Acting Director
Air, Pesticides, and Toxics
Management Division

cc: Lynne Liddington, Director
Knoxville County Air Quality Management