



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

JAN 14 2010

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

(AR-18J)

Jennifer Hunter, Section Manager
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Air Pollution Control
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Dear Ms. Hunter:

Thank you for the submittal of the redesignation and maintenance plan state implementation plan (SIP) for 8-hour ozone in the Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN area. This letter addresses our review of the adequacy of the motor vehicle emission budgets (MVEBs) for the Ohio and Indiana portions of the Cincinnati-Hamilton area. Ohio and Indiana submitted identical MVEBs which account for emissions from the Ohio portion of the Cincinnati area and also the Indiana portion of the Cincinnati area.

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 the 8-hour ozone maintenance plan as well as the transportation conformity budgets contained in the submittal. These documents contain MOBILE6 based MVEBs for both the Ohio portion and the Indiana portion of the Cincinnati, Ohio area. The SIP states that the northern Kentucky portion of the 8-hour ozone area will submit separate budgets.

The 2015 and 2020 MVEBs for volatile organic compounds and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) for the combined Ohio portion and Indiana portion of the Cincinnati, Ohio, 8-hour ozone area, listed in tons per day (tpd), are as follows:

MVEBs for Ohio portion and Indiana portion of Cincinnati, Ohio

	VOCs (tpd)	NOx (tpd)
2015	31.73	49.00
2020	28.82	34.39

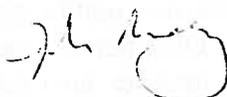
EPA has determined that the submitted MVEBs are adequate for transportation conformity purposes. EPA notes that the D.C. Circuit issued a decision on July 11, 2008

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 motor vehicle emissions budgets in light of the remand of the CAIR rule 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 motor vehicle emissions budgets satisfy the requirements of 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4)(iv) which requires that motor vehicle emissions budget(s), when considered together with all other emissions sources, is consistent with applicable requirements for maintenance. EPA bases this conclusion on the overall reduction in VOC and NOx emissions from all sources which are documented as part of the State Implementation Plan.

The Transportation Conformity Rule spells out limited technical and administrative criteria that EPA must use to determine the adequacy of submitted MVEBs for transportation conformity purposes. EPA also described the process for determining the adequacy of submitted MVEBs in a May 14, 1999, memorandum entitled "Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999, Conformity Court Decision." EPA followed this guidance in making this adequacy determination. EPA opened the public comment period on the adequacy of the submitted MVEBs by posting them to the EPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality's adequacy review website (<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/transconf/adequacy.htm>) on December 10, 2009. The comment period closed on January 11, 2010, and no comments were received.

EPA will publish a notice in the Federal Register announcing this finding. If you have any questions regarding this finding, please feel free to call me or Patricia Morris, of my staff, at (312) 353-8656.

Sincerely,



John Mooney, Chief
Criteria Pollutant Section