



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

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April 30, 2018

Ozone Advance
Attention: Laura Bunte
EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
Mail Code C304-01
109 TW Alexander Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

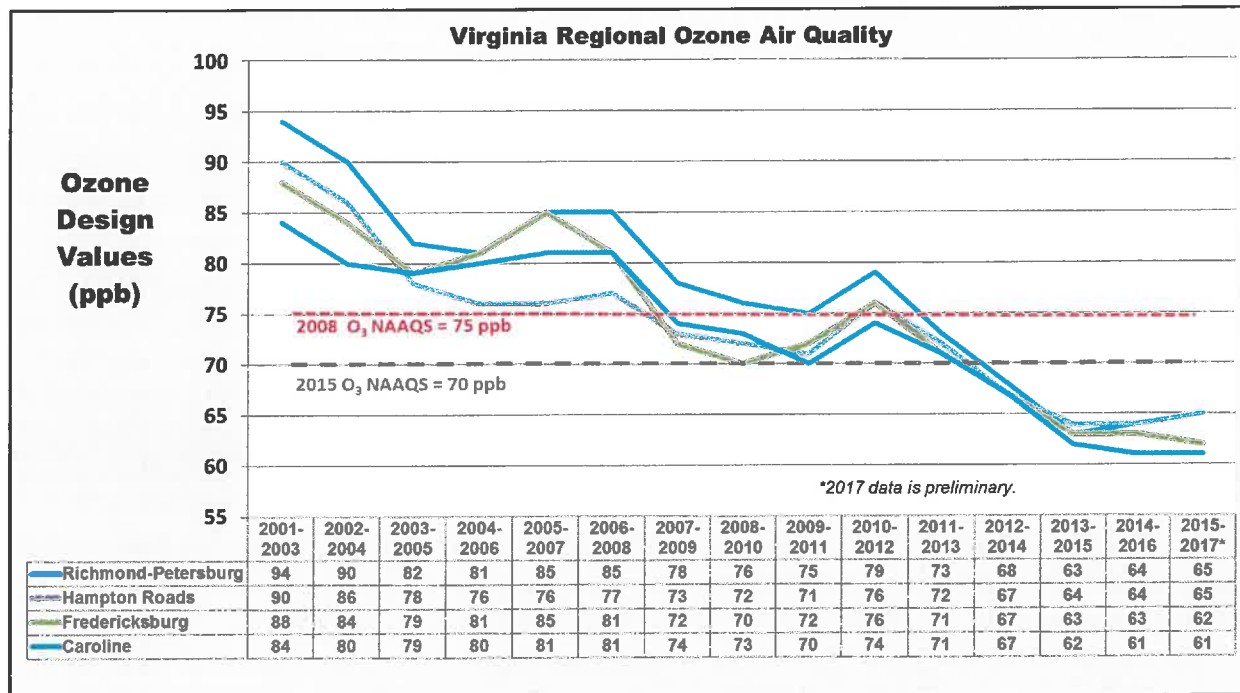
Re: Ozone Advance Action Plan – Fredericksburg, Hampton Roads, and
Richmond-Petersburg 2018 Annual Reports

Dear Ms. Bunte:

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the fifth and final annual reports for the Fredericksburg, Hampton Roads, and Richmond-Petersburg Ozone Advance Action Plans. These annual reports are due to your office by April 30, as mutually agreed upon by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff.

The annual reports follow the reporting structure included in Appendix D of each Action Plan. Since the structure of Appendix D allows for only a brief overview of each element, several documents and spreadsheets providing in-depth information are included with this letter in electronic format. Attached to this letter is a table of contents with a description of these documents for your convenience.

The 2018 reports show that ozone air quality in areas of Virginia participating in the Ozone Advance program is in the healthy range, with a significant margin of safety. The figure below provides ozone air quality data for these areas in Virginia. State and federal control programs will continue reducing emissions, and air quality improvements should continue throughout Virginia in the coming years. Due to the improvement in air quality measured in the last five years, these areas will not be developing further action plans unless future NAAQS warrant such efforts.



DEQ supports the Ozone and PM Advance programs and believes that such programs are very beneficial for areas with measured air quality nearing federal health-based standards. DEQ requests that EPA expand program applicability to marginal ozone nonattainment areas. Marginal areas have no mandated planning requirements under the Clean Air Act until air quality improves such that the area must submit a maintenance plan. Offering marginal areas the opportunity to proactively address air quality through the development of an Ozone Advance action plan could facilitate more rapid air quality improvements and could serve as a useful guide for the creation of a maintenance plan when air quality subsequently complies with federal standards.

If you have any questions on the information in these annual reports or in the information provided electronically, please do not hesitate to call me or Doris McLeod at 804-698-4197.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Ballou
 Director, Air Data Analysis and Planning

Enclosures: Fredericksburg Ozone Advance Action Plan Annual Report
 Hampton Roads Ozone Advance Action Plan Annual Report
 Richmond-Petersburg Ozone Advance Action Plan Annual Report
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