



*VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY*

1111 E. Main Street, Suite 1400, Richmond, Virginia 23219

P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218

800-592-5482

[www.deq.virginia.gov](http://www.deq.virginia.gov)

Matthew J. Strickler  
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor  
Director  
804-698-4000

October 31, 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

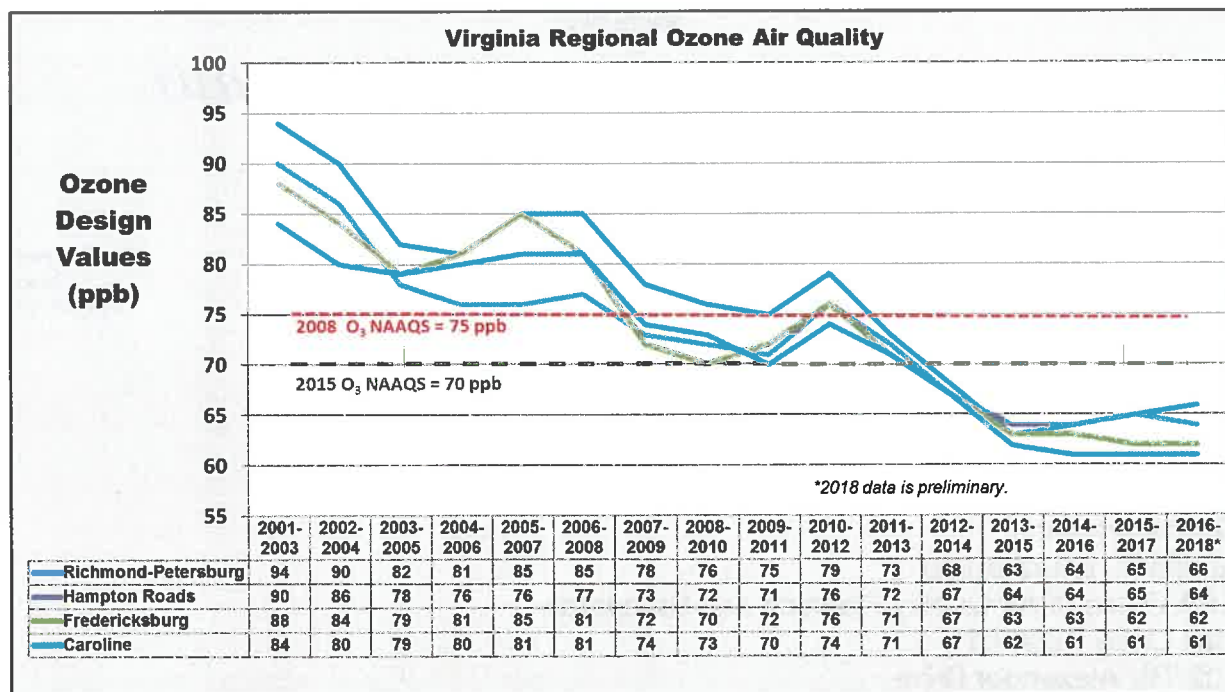
Re: Ozone Advance Action Plan – Caroline County 2018 Annual Report

Dear Ms. Bunte:

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the fifth and final annual report for the Caroline County Ozone Advance Action Plan. This annual report is due to your office by October 31, as mutually agreed upon by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff.

The annual report follows the reporting structure included in Appendix D of the Action Plan. Since the structure of Appendix D allows for only a brief overview of each element, supplemental documents and spreadsheets providing more 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 report shows that ozone air quality in Caroline County, as well as other 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, Caroline County will not be developing further action plans unless future National Ambient Air Quality Standards 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: Caroline County Ozone Advance Action Plan Annual Report  
 Table of Contents  
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