



November 16, 2021

Mr. Rich Damberg
Advance Program
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, C304-01
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711
advance@epa.gov

Re: Request to Include Buncombe County and City of Asheville in the Ozone and PM Advance Program

Dear Mr. Damberg:

The Western North Carolina Regional Air Quality Agency (WNCRAQA) is part of an interlocal agreement between Buncombe County and the City of Asheville. WNCRAQA requests to join the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Advance program to preserve and protect air quality in Buncombe County, consistent with our mission.

Buncombe County, which includes the City of Asheville, meets the eligibility requirements for the ozone and particulate matter (PM) Advance program, as the area is currently in attainment for ozone and PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Buncombe County's air quality is characterized by the following monitors: 37-021-0030 (Bent Creek Ozone site) and 37-021-0024 (Board of Education PM_{2.5} site). Buncombe County emissions have been reported to EPA annually as required.

We understand that our efforts under Ozone and PM Advance may benefit Buncombe County by:

- Reducing air pollution that contributes to the formation of ozone, PM, and other air pollutants,
- Ensuring our area continues to have healthy air quality and meet the NAAQS for ozone and PM,
- Help avoid violations of the ozone and PM NAAQS that could lead to a future nonattainment designation, and
- Increasing public awareness about ground-level ozone and fine particle pollution.

WNCRAQA intends to work collaboratively with EPA, stakeholders and the public to expand existing initiatives and seek out new partnerships and programs to advance this goal and reduce ozone and PM in the near term. It is in our best interest to work together and target limited resources to reduce air pollution as part of this program.

Thank you for your consideration. If additional information is needed please contact me at (828) 250-6778 or ashley.featherstone@buncombecounty.org.

Sincerely,



Ashley J. Featherstone
Director

CC by email: Ms. Pepa Sassin, Air Regulatory Management Section, EPA Region 4
Ms. Kelly Sheckler, Air Regulatory Management Section, EPA Region 4