



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT - 8 2009

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable M. Jodi Rell
Governor, State of Connecticut
State Capitol
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Governor Rell:

Based on the most recent air quality data, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that some areas in Connecticut do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for fine particles (PM_{2.5}), measured over a 24-hour period. Consistent with the requirements of the Clean Air Act, EPA is designating those areas nonattainment. All other areas in your state will be designated unclassifiable/attainment for those standards.

My predecessor, Administrator Stephen Johnson, sent a letter last December, identifying areas that EPA had designated as meeting or not meeting the 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards based on data available at that time. However, the Agency did not complete the process of designating areas as attainment or nonattainment. Once the new EPA leadership team was in place, we reviewed the status of areas for the 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards to assure that the final designation decisions reflect current policy and the most up-to-date air-quality monitoring data. The final rule I signed today reflects the results of that review.

The enclosed table lists the areas within Connecticut that EPA is designating nonattainment. For those areas, you will need to take action to reduce emissions to achieve cleaner, healthier air. For those parts of Connecticut that attain the standards, you will need to continue your efforts to sustain clean air. EPA will continue to work with you on both goals.

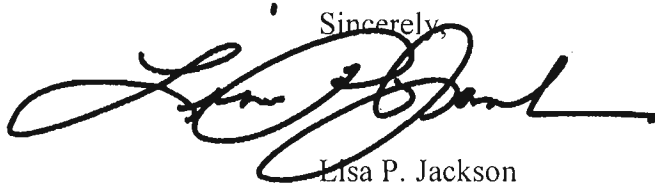
Meeting these air-quality standards is very important to protect public health and the environment. Fine-particle pollution is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets. When inhaled, they can reach the deepest regions of the lungs and cause serious health problems, including aggravated asthma, chronic bronchitis, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, heart attack and premature death in people with heart or lung disease. Fine-particle pollution is also the main cause of visibility impairment in our cities and our treasured national parks.

EPA has taken significant actions that will reduce fine-particle pollution locally, regionally and nationally. The Clean Diesel Program, for example, will dramatically reduce particle-forming emissions from highway, non-road and stationary diesel engines. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided \$300 million in new funding for

programs to support the implementation of verified and certified diesel-emission reduction technologies. Federal programs to reduce particle-forming emissions of nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide from stationary sources have also dramatically reduced the interstate transport of pollution that contributes to local violations of the standards. However, protecting public health by keeping fine-particle pollution levels below EPA's health protective standards will require continued work by EPA as well as our valued partners at the state, tribal and local environmental agencies.

Thank you for your continued efforts to improve air quality. Together, we have made considerable progress in reducing air pollution and its impacts on public health and the environment. For additional technical information, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/pmdesignations>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Jackson", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Lisa P. Jackson

Enclosure

cc: Amy Marrella
Environmental Commissioner, Connecticut

Mr. David McIntosh
Associate Administrator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Ira Leighton
Acting Regional Administrator, Region 1

Enclosure – Final Nonattainment Areas, Connecticut

State	Area Name	Nonattainment Counties
Connecticut	New York, NY-NJ-CT	Fairfield New Haven