



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



June 1, 2009

Ira Leighton, Acting Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPA New England Regional Office
One Congress Street, Suite 1100 (Mail Code CAQ)
Boston, MA 02114-2023
Docket Identification Number: EPA-R01-OAR-2008-0117

Re: *Proposed Disapproval of the Southwest Connecticut Attainment Demonstration for the 1997 Ozone NAAQS: Request for Extension of Comment Period*

Dear Administrator Leighton:

On May 8, 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to disapprove the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's (CTDEP's) plan to attain the 1997 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) in the Connecticut portion of the greater New York City nonattainment area (NY-NJ-CT area). CTDEP requests an extension of the comment period on the proposed disapproval to September 30, 2009.

An extension until September 30, 2009 will allow EPA and CTDEP to determine whether 2009 measured fourth highest 8-hour ozone levels at one or more monitors in the NY-NJ-CT nonattainment area exceed the 84 ppb threshold for attainment. If no such exceedance occurs, CTDEP would be eligible to request a one-year extension of the attainment date for southwest Connecticut under section 172(a)(2)(C) of the Clean Air Act (CAA).

As you know, our nation faces unprecedented economic challenges that have resulted in significant reductions in stationary source emissions and VMT reductions. Furthermore, unnecessary efforts to rework SIPs that may be proven correct aren't justified at this time. I urge you to extend the comment period until September 30, 2009 so we can determine how to comment appropriately on EPA's proposed action.

If you have any questions concerning this request, please contact Anne Gobin, Chief of the CTDEP Bureau of Air Management, at 860-424-3027. I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible so that CTDEP will be prepared to respond with comments at the appropriate time.

Yours truly,

Amey W. Marrella
Deputy Commissioner