

# **Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee**

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September 29, 2008

Ms. Judy Katz, Director  
Division of Air Protection (3AP00)  
U.S. EPA Region III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Re: Request for Clean Data Determination

Dear Ms. Katz:

The Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) requests that EPA issue a Clean Data determination for the Metropolitan Washington, DC-MD-VA nonattainment area for the annual 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard. Data from the region's monitors have been in compliance with the standard since 2005 and continue to be in compliance with the standard.

The states in the Metropolitan Washington region submitted PM<sub>2.5</sub> SIPs earlier this year as evidence of the region's commitment to reducing PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels in the region even further, although the region's data shows compliance. Although the CAIR vacatur has created problems for the states' fine particle SIPs, the region is continuing to pursue control measures to improve air quality by reducing PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels further. We are implementing measures in the plan even as the states in the region are actively seeking a solution to the void created by the CAIR vacatur.

We urge EPA to take appropriate steps to develop a measure that produces air quality benefits for the region similar to those of CAIR. The measure is urgently needed to provide the health benefits promised in our states' regional SIPs for fine particles.

Sincerely,



David Snyder, Chair

Cc: Cristina Fernandez, EPA Region III  
Tad Aburn, MDE  
Mike Dowd, VDEQ  
Cecily Beall, DDOE