

DRAFT

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

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January 27, 2010

Administrator Lisa Jackson
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Mail code 6102T
Washington, DC 20460
Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2005-0172

Dear Administrator Jackson:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC), I am writing to comment on the proposed revisions to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone. MWAQC was designated in 1992 under Section 174 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), to develop regional air quality plans for attaining Federal air quality standards in the Washington region. We have done so successfully over the past eighteen years. This assignment is carried out through a partnership among the States of Maryland and Virginia and the District of Columbia, and the region's local governments in the non-attainment area.

MWAQC supports the range of the reconsidered ozone standard, 60-70 parts per billion (ppb) as being more protective of human health and the environment. We are pleased that EPA's recommended standard is consistent with the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's (CASAC) recommendations made in 2007.

The lower level of the standard will be very challenging to meet in the metropolitan Washington region. On the worst days of summer, transported pollution concentrations can exceed the levels proposed for the standard. However, MWAQC has and will continue to adopt all feasible control programs at the local level. The Washington region has a national reputation for adopting aggressive and innovative control programs. Nevertheless, it is critical that EPA help the states and local governments meet the new standards by adopting national rules as part of a national strategy to address pollution.

We look forward to further information about the reconsidered standard later this year. Thank you for taking our concerns into consideration as EPA finalizes its guidance in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Leta Mach, Chair

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

Cc: MWAQC Members

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