



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 1

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Boston, MA 02109-3912

December 30, 2010

Anne Gobin, Bureau Chief
Bureau of Air Management
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

RE: Adequacy Status of Transportation Conformity Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets

Dear Ms. Gobin:

This is to inform you that EPA New England is withdrawing its previous adequacy finding on 2012 out year motor vehicle emission budgets (MVEBs) contained in Connecticut's 8-hour ozone attainment demonstration State Implementation Plan (SIP). In June 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency found the 2008, 2009 and 2012 summer day volatile organic compound (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) MVEBs contained in Connecticut's February 2008 8-hour ozone reasonable further progress and 8-hour ozone attainment demonstration SIPs adequate for transportation conformity purposes. These MVEBs were identified in EPA's June 2, 2008 letter to then Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Gina McCarthy, and also identified in a June 12, 2008 Federal Register notice of adequacy (73 FR 33428 – 33429).

By letter of August 23, 2010, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP) withdrew the 2012 out year motor vehicle emission budgets from its 8-hour ozone attainment demonstration SIP for both ozone nonattainment areas, [the Connecticut portion of the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT (Southwest CT) area and the Greater Connecticut area]. CT DEP also requested that EPA withdraw the adequacy findings for the 2012 out year MVEBs established for these two ozone nonattainment areas since both areas have monitored air quality data demonstrating attainment of the 1997 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard, and the MVEBs are no longer necessary to ensure attainment.

On September 1, 2010, EPA posted a second announcement of availability on EPA's adequacy website, <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/transconf/currsips.htm>, for the MVEBs included in Connecticut's February 1, 2008 attainment demonstration SIP. This SIP revision and CT DEP's letter requesting the withdrawal of the 2012 out year MVEBs were also made available for public viewing at both the EPA New England Regional Office and at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Office. In

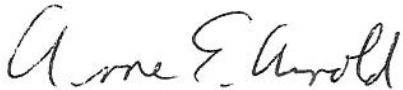
addition, the SIP revision and letter were made available on the CT DEP website. No comments were received during the 30 day adequacy comment period.

This letter transmits EPA's decision to withdraw our previous adequacy finding for the 2012 out year motor vehicle emissions budgets contained in Connecticut's 8-hour ozone attainment demonstration. The 2008 (reasonable further progress) MVEBs and the 2009 (attainment) MVEBs remain adequate for transportation conformity purposes. In fact, on September 20, 2010, EPA proposed approval of Connecticut's 2008 MVEBs in a Federal Register notice of proposed rulemaking (75 FR 57221).

A copy of this letter will soon be posted on EPA's adequacy website. We will shortly announce today's action in the Federal Register. The withdrawal of our previous adequacy finding of the out year motor vehicle emissions budgets will be effective 15 days after publication of the announcement in the Federal Register.

If you or your staff would like to discuss this further, please contact Donald Cooke of my staff at (617) 918-1668.

Sincerely,



Anne E. Arnold, Manager

Air Quality Planning Unit, Office of Ecosystem Protection

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