

WESTERN STATES AIR RESOURCES COUNCIL



June 11, 2010

Ms. Gina McCarthy, Assistant Administrator
Office of Air and Radiation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20760

Dear Ms. McCarthy,

The Western States Air Resources (WESTAR) Council, an association of 15 western state air quality managers, welcomes your efforts to reach out to state and local air quality management agencies on key issues, including State Implementation Plan (SIP) reform. Your staff is working with state and local agency representatives to “share successes from existing SIP/Air Quality Management reforms and identify areas where additional reform may be warranted”, one of several follow-up items that came out of the recent NACAA/EPA retreat.

Within the scope of this effort, we are writing to encourage you to address the issue of EPA’s delayed response to SIP submittals. Steps need to be taken to address the current backlog of SIP amendments awaiting action at EPA Regional Offices around the country, and new procedures are needed to avoid future backlogs. As you know, SIP amendments by themselves do not improve air quality – implementation of the programs and regulations that are contained within SIP amendments do. Time spent perfecting the administrative and technical details in a SIP - details that become increasingly out-of-date as time passes - seriously impacts the time available to develop and implement new initiatives to improve air quality.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact Dan Johnson, WESTAR’s Executive Director, at 206-254-9145.

Sincerely,

Dave Klemp, President
Western States Air Resources Council

Cc: Nancy Kruger, NACAA
Greg Green, EPA/OAQPS