

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

MAY 29 2003

4APT-APB

Sheila Holman  
Acting Chief  
Planning Section  
Division of Air Quality  
NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
1641 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1641

Dear Ms. Holman:

Thank you for your May 19, 2003, letter requesting a modification to the modeling schedule for the Early Action Compact (EAC) areas within North Carolina. According to the revised schedule all of the photochemical modeling needed for the EAC will now be complete by August 29, 2003. EPA has reviewed your request and determined that this change is acceptable. This change does not impact the schedule in the protocol that determines the deferral of the effective date of the redesignations for the EAC areas. As you are aware the critical dates and milestones approaching are:

1. June 16, 2003 - Identify and describe local strategies being considered for inclusion in local clean air plans.
2. January 31, 2004 - Select local emission reduction strategies.
3. March 31, 2004 - Submit final EAP to NCDENR and EPA.

We appreciate the tremendous effort by North Carolina and the four EAC areas to meet these milestones and look forward to continuing to work with you on this effort. If you have any questions, please contact Dick Schutt, Chief, Regulatory Development Section, at 404/562-9033, or me at 404/562-9026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kay T. Prince".

Kay T. Prince, Chief  
Air Planning Branch



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Division of Air Quality

Michael F. Easley, Governor

William G. Ross, Jr., Secretary  
B. Keith Overcash, P.E., Director

May 19, 2003

Kay Prince  
USEPA REGION 4  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Ms. Prince:

This letter is to request an adjustment to the modeling schedule for the Early Action Compact (EAC) areas within North Carolina. North Carolina Division of Air Quality (NCDAQ) has been working with the developers of SMOKE to fully integrate MOBILE6.2 into the emissions preprocessor model and have successfully been able to complete this integration however it took much longer than at first believed. Additionally, the developers ran into problems porting this version of SMOKE to NCDAQ's HP UNIX workstation. It is believed that issues dealing with porting the software will be worked out this week at the latest.

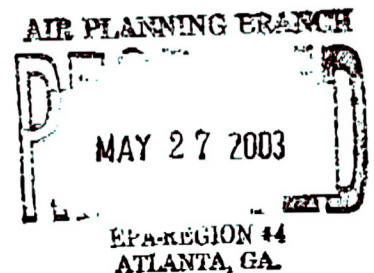
Due to these unexpected delays, NCDAQ had not had the opportunity to process the base case episodes through SMOKE and therefore the photochemical modeling has not been able to begin. In the FAQs on Implementing the DRAFT 8-hour Ozone Modeling Guidance to Support Attainment Demonstrations for Early Action Compact (EAC), it states "EPA will work with State/Tribal/Local agencies to accommodate changes to schedules in EAC protocols that are internally set by these agencies (such as the May 31, 2003 date for completion of certain modeling activities) ....". NCDAQ would like to request such a change in schedule. Below is NCDAQ's suggested revised schedule through August, 2003.

- June 17, 2003 Complete photochemical modeling performance on the June, 1996 modeling episodes
- June 30, 2003 Complete photochemical modeling performance on the July, 1997 modeling episode
- July 14, 2003 Complete photochemical modeling performance on the July, 1995 modeling episode
- July 31, 2003 Complete photochemical modeling runs for the current year (2000) inventories with the meteorology from the four base year episodes
- August 29, 2003 Complete photochemical modeling runs for the future year (2007) base case for all four episodes and review future year design values through the attainment test protocol.

Please let me know if EPA Region 4 has any issues with the above schedule.

Sincerely,

Sheila Holman  
NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Division of Air Quality/Acting Chief of Planning Section



Cc: Brock Nicholson  
Laura Boothe