

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

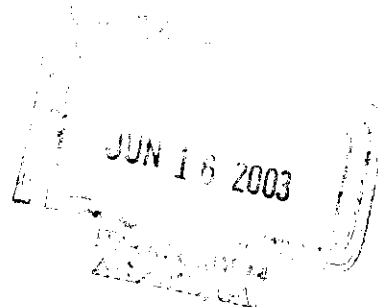
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June 10, 2003

Ms. Kay Prince
US Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
61 Forsyth St. S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960



Dear Ms. Prince:

On behalf of the Unifour Air Quality Committee (UAQC), I am pleased to submit our area's proposed ozone control measures and emission reduction strategies. This fulfills the first Unifour Early Action Compact milestone requirement.

These measures were developed over the past several months with substantial public involvement. The UAQC consists of twenty-seven (27) members representing four (4) counties, six (6) municipalities, environmental and health organizations and various private sector companies. The UAQC has met monthly since the EAC was formed in December, 2002. In addition to these public meetings, a formal public hearing was held, presentations were done on local radio and television stations and civic clubs. Also, each of the ten (10) EAC members considered these ozone control measures at public meetings.

We look forward to working with the USEPA and the NC Division of Air Quality in implementing these control measures. If you have any questions or if we can provide any additional information please contact me.

Sincerely,

John Tippett, Chair
Unifour Air Quality Committee

Cc: Richard Schutt, USEPA
Sheila Holman, NCDAQ
Unifour Air Quality Committee

R. Douglas Taylor, Executive Director ■ Barbara H. Hughes, Chairman ■ Jesse H. Searcy II, Vice-Chairman ■ J. Ed George, Secretary ■
Hal W. Kaylor, Treasurer ■ Jack F. Roberts, Past Chairman ■ At-Large Members: Alden E. Starnes ■ Bruce E. Meisner ■ Nicky E. Setzer ■ Joel C. Harbinson

Alexander County ■ Taylorsville ■ Burke County ■ Connelly Springs ■ Drexel ■ Glen Alpine ■ Hildebran ■ Morganton ■ Rutherford College ■ Valdese
Caldwell County ■ Cahaj's Mountain ■ Cedar Rock ■ Gamewell ■ Granite Falls ■ Hudson ■ Lenoir ■ Rhodhiss ■ Sawmills ■ Catawba County ■ Brookford
■ Catawba ■ Claremont ■ Conover ■ Hickory ■ Long View ■ Maiden ■ Newton

PROPOSED OZONE CONTROL MEASURES FOR THE UNIFOUR EARLY ACTION COMPACT

HICKORY-MORGANTON-LENOIR MSA, North Carolina

Air Quality Goal: Governments within the Unifour Area of North Carolina desire to achieve and maintain clean healthful air as determined by national, state and local ambient air quality standards for the well being of its citizens and the economic vitality of the region. These governments shall act proactively at the county and municipal levels to achieve this goal.

	Priority	Action	Air Quality Improvement Action	Action Steps	Purpose & Outcome
1	1	Behavior Modification	Local governments join and participate with the private sector in the NC Air Awareness Program	Division of Air Quality (DAQ) and WPCOG will encourage local governments and the private sector to join the Air Awareness Program. WPCOG will coordinate annual Care for the Air Race.	Avoid EPA non-attainment designation Modify activities that result in Ozone Formation
2	1	Behavior Modification	Enhanced Ozone Awareness (Outreach-Communication): assign a local agency to develop and implement an aggressive program to educate and motivate individuals and businesses/organizations, to take actions to minimize ozone pollution. Can include a wider distribution of educational materials, increased media alerts, promoting NC Air Awareness program, etc.	All EAC members will coordinate program.	Educate citizens on Ozone pollution activities
3	1	Energy	Evaluate the benefits of participation in the Clean Cities program	WPCOG will coordinate program if UAQC desires to participate	Increase use of alternative fuels
4	2	Energy	City and County Energy Plan (Energy Conservation Plan): An energy plan could be developed that directs city & county departments to reduce energy use. This could include new construction standards for new buildings, retrofitting city/county buildings, schools, & street lights for energy efficiency, i.e. "Energy Star" Program, white roofs, etc., promoting transportation alternatives, and encouraging recycling & composting.	Local governments will develop their own energy plan (possibly involve Cooperative Extension Service)	Reduce energy consumption
5	1	Government	Assign staff to become air quality contact	Local governments will designate staff member as air quality contact person	Increase personnel that are familiar with air quality issues
6	1	Government	Adopt a local clean air policy & appoint a stakeholder group to identify & recommend locally feasible air improvement actions	Unifour Air Quality Committee (UAQC) will continue to serve as this group	UAQC is focal point for air quality policy & planning activities
7	2	Land Use	Landscaping Standards: Planted trees and vegetative landscaping reduce the need for air conditioning, reduce the heat island effect in urban areas, and reduce energy usage. Landscaping and tree ordinances could be drafted to establish minimum tree planting standards for new development; and to promoted strategic tree planting, street trees, and parking lot trees "Urban Forests Program"	All local governments should develop tree and landscaping ordinances. Local governments should educate and encourage citizen participation with tree and other vegetative plantings. Riparian buffer regulations should also be supported.	Expand vegetation plantings through land use ordinances
8	2	Land Use	Implement Smart Growth, mixed use, and infill development policies.	Encourage compact development to reduce travel and promote Smart Growth concepts and redevelopment activities	Reduction in vehicle miles traveled
9	1	Transportation	Develop plans to encourage bicycle and pedestrian usage.	Each EAC member will develop plans within a regional context.	Reduction in vehicle miles traveled
10	1	Land Use	Discourage Open Burning on Ozone Action Days	Request all major land development and grading businesses to sign pledges to not engage in open burning activities on high ozone days.	Minimize ozone forming activities on high ozone days
11	1	Transportation	Support Coordination of Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Rural Planning Organization (RPO) efforts	MPO and RPO will coordinate transportation and air quality planning efforts	Integrate regional land use & transportation planning activities
12	1	Transportation	Encourage the use of compressed work weeks or flexible work hours, which helps reduce traffic congestion during the peak driving hours by spreading out the number of vehicles on the roadway over a longer period of time	MPO and RPO will promote benefits of telecommuting, flexible work hours and staggered work schedules	Reduce traffic congestion
13	1	Transportation	Expand Transit and Ridesharing programs (carpooling/vanpooling). These are options where employers living in the same area agree to ride to work together rather than to drive their individual vehicles to work.	MPO and RPO and local governments will educate and promote these benefits Produce Maps to locate employees to assist with ridesharing programs	Expand transit and ridesharing programs to reduce traffic congestion and vehicle miles traveled.
14	1	Transportation	Improve traffic operational planning, engineering and maintenance for existing and future transportation infrastructure.	MPO, RPO, NCDOT, and municipalities, will expand traffic operational and engineering technologies (signal timing, signing, message boards, etc., and other intelligent transportation strategies).	Reduce traffic congestion and idling time

NOTE: These Control Measures and emission reduction strategies were developed based upon guidance from the Unifour Air Quality Committee, other stakeholder involvement and input at public meetings.