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State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Air Quality Bureau
2048 Galisteo
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Telephone (505) 827-1494
Fax (505) 827-1523
www.nmenv.state.nm.us

BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

RON CURRY
Secretary

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
Deputy Secretary

December 22, 2003

Mr. Carl Edlund (6PD)
Multimedia Planning and Permitting Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Dear Mr. Edlund,

I am pleased to submit the enclosed December 2003 Progress Report for the San Juan County, New Mexico Early Action Compact (EAC) for ozone. This report provides details about progress achieved with the EAC and other related work in San Juan County from July 2003 through December 2003. The report contains an overview, followed by updates on potential control measures, public outreach, modeling and technical planning, and other related activities.

The State of New Mexico looks forward to your approval of this submittal and our continued work to protect air quality in San Juan County. If you have any questions about the enclosed report, please contact Andy Berger of my staff at (505) 955-8034.

Sincerely,

M. Lind for S. Ely

Sandra Ely
Air Quality Bureau Chief

Enclosure

cc: Tom Diggs, EPA, Region 6 (6PD-L)
Michael Morton, EPA, Region 6 (6PD-L)

San Juan County, New Mexico
Early Action Compact Progress Report
December 2003

Overview

This document reports the progress achieved from July 2003 through December 2003 in meeting the milestones of the Early Action Compact (EAC) to address ground-level ozone in San Juan County, New Mexico. The EAC is a signed agreement that permits the New Mexico Environment Department's Air Quality Bureau to work with stakeholders from San Juan County in addressing ozone levels that approach the 8-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone. The goal of the EAC is to prevent an exceedence of the NAAQS for ozone, and by doing so, avoid a nonattainment designation for the area. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), San Juan County, and the cities of Aztec, Bloomfield, and Farmington signed the San Juan County EAC in 2002. Since the June 2003 progress report, NMED has continued to work with the EAC signatories, the Four Corners Ozone Task Force, and the public to move the EAC towards its completion in 2004.

Control Measures and Implementation Dates, Emissions Reductions, and Geographic Area

Due to the current status of ozone photochemical modeling, potential control measures under consideration by the EAC signatories as part of the March 2004 submission are still those listed in the document entitled Control Strategies for Ozone Formation in San Juan County. The list was submitted to EPA on June 11, 2003. The results of modeling may not require any control measures, or the results may necessitate one or more control measures. Since modeling is now in progress, likely implementation dates, expected emissions reductions, and the geographic area(s) to which control measures may apply are yet to be determined.

Public Outreach

Since the June 2003 Progress Report, the Air Quality Bureau's ozone- and EAC-related outreach to the signatory parties, Four Corners Ozone Task Force, other stakeholders and the public has continued through the following channels:

- Modeling Seminar, provided by the modeling contractor to interested members of the public: July 16, 2003

- Technical Peer Review Committee meeting: July 16, 2003

- Open House and Public Meeting with a Technical Progress Report by the modeling contractor and other presentations about ozone standards and health impacts of elevated ozone: July 16, 2003

- An "EAC Update" presentation provided by NMED to the EAC signatories at Quad-City meeting: October 27, 2003

- Several conference calls with the Technical Peer Review Committee and the modeling contractors to review EAC deliverables

- Public Meeting to present and discuss results of passive ozone monitoring in San Juan County during six weeks of summer 2003: December 16, 2003

- Meetings and presentations have received coverage in the press:
  - Articles, columns, editorials, and letters to the editor in the Farmington Daily-Times (http://www.daily-times.com)
  - Articles in the Durango Herald (http://www.durangoherald.com)

- Additions to 2 websites:
  - "Ambient Ozone Measurements in San Juan County" (http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/projects/Ozone.html)
  - "Four Corners Ozone Task Force" (http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/ozonetf/index.html)

- Ongoing communication with EAC Signatories, Task Force, Technical Peer Review Committee, and members of the public.

Modeling/Technical Planning

Inventory and modeling work has continued through work by the modeling contractor team, consisting of Alpine Geophysics, LLC and ENVIRON International Corporation. Deliverables and reports prepared to meet milestones of the EAC are reviewed by the Technical Peer Review Committee, a group of Task Force members, EAC signatories, and other interested parties who review and critique products from the contractor team.

A Modeling Protocol was finalized on June 16, 2003 and reviewed by the Technical Peer Review Committee in a conference call.

Meteorological modeling and an evaluation of the meteorological model's performance was completed by September 1, 2003 and discussed by the Technical Peer Review Committee in a conference call.

A Base Case Modeling Emissions Inventory was compiled by October 31, 2003 and reviewed by the Technical Peer Review Committee in a conference call.

The Modeling Protocol, Meteorological Modeling Report, Base Case Emissions Inventory Report, and various other presentations and documents are available from the Four Corners Ozone Task Force website at: http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/ozonetf

As of December 2003, base case ozone photochemical modeling is currently underway.

Other Activities in San Juan County

Ozone-related activities other than the EAC have taken place in San Juan County during the time period covered by this Progress Report. With assistance from EPA and local volunteers in San Juan County, NMED conducted passive ozone monitoring at eight locations from July 21 through August 29, 2003. The results of the passive monitoring were analyzed by EPA and presented by EPA and NMED at a public meeting in San Juan County on December 16, 2003. A copy of the results presentation is available from the above-mentioned Ozone Task Force website. Additionally, NMED applied for and received an EPA Environmental Education grant to produce a children's activity book about ground-level ozone and air quality. NMED staff is currently working on the content and design of the book.