

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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June 30, 2000

Rebecca W. Hanmer, Acting Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII 8P-AR
999 18th Street, Suite 500
Denver, Colorado 80202-2466

Dear Ms. Hanmer:

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) established a schedule for designating areas attainment or nonattainment for the new eight-hour ozone standard which was adopted by the Environmental Protection Agency in 1997. Under this schedule, the governor of each state would recommend classifications for all areas of the state as either attainment, nonattainment, or unclassifiable by July, 1999. The Environmental Protection Agency would then make final designations by July, 2000. Recent guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency outlined a new schedule for state governors to submit attainment recommendations by June 30, 2000.

On May 14, 1999, the United States Court of Appeals remanded the eight-hour ozone standard to the Environmental Protection Agency for further clarification of the criteria that were used to select the standard. This decision has been appealed to the Supreme Court. The litigation has created uncertainty regarding the future implementation of the eight-hour ozone standard. I am proceeding with a recommendation, as outlined in TEA-21, to ensure that implementation will proceed smoothly if the ozone standard is retained. This recommendation should be considered preliminary until the issues raised by the United States Court of Appeals have been resolved.

The ozone standard is based on the average of three years of monitoring data. All ozone monitors in Utah are currently measuring attainment of the eight-hour ozone standard based on quality-assured data for the years 1997 through 1999. A summary of the monitored ozone values is attached. I recommend that all areas in the state of Utah be designated attainment for the eight-hour ozone standard.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Attachment: Utah Ozone Summary Information, 1997-1999

UTAH OZONE SUMMARY INFORMATION --- 1997-1999
Annual 4th max. Values (8-hr. Averages) and 3-year Average

Site: (AIRS code)	1997 EPA	1998 EPA	1999 EPA	1997-1999 4th Max. Average
Bountiful 49-011-0001	.079	.096	.079	.084
Beach 49-035-2004	.073	.095	.077	.081
Cottonwood 49-035-0003	.075	.092	.080	.082
Hawthorne 49-035-3006	.075	.093	.078	.082
Herriman 49-035-3003	.074	.089	.077	.080
Highland 49-049-5008	.075	.090	.083	.082
North Provo 49-049-0002	.070	.083	.073	.075
Spanish Fork 49-049-5010	---	.078	.079	.078*
Wash. Terrace 49-057-0007	.075	.090	.074	.079
North Ogden 49-057-1002	.071	.081	.072	.074
Logan 49-005-0002	.063	.068	.066	.065

*(2 year ave; Spanish Fork monitoring began in 1998)

Discussion: EPA values noted in the table above were obtained from the AIRS web site (<http://www.epa.gov/airsdata/>) since the regular AIRS database is not programmed to calculate 8-hr. running ozone averages according to specified guidance data. Note that the 3 year averages are truncated to the nearest ppb (.001 ppm), as the regulations require. The 3-year average is then rounded up or down to determine compliance with the 8-hour ozone standard (values of .084 ppm or less are considered attainment of the standard). All monitors show attainment of the standard of .08 ppm for the period of 1997-1999.