



National Tribal Air Association / National Tribal Environmental Council
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William Wehrum
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
US EPA - Office of Air and Radiation
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W. (6101A)
Washington D.C. 20460

March 2, 2006

Dear Mr. Wehrum, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator:

On behalf of the NTAA, I would like to request additional public hearings in regard to the proposed PM NAAQS and monitoring regulations. These regulations have important implications for tribes, most of which are in rural areas that, under the proposal, would not be covered by either the PM₁₀ or the new PM_{10-2.5} rules. In addition, nearly all tribal areas would not be covered by the proposed PM_{10-2.5} monitoring network. We have received numerous expressions of concerns from tribes about these provisions, as well as requests for more opportunities for input.

The public hearings held in Philadelphia, Chicago, and San Francisco were in sites which are far from the rural locations of most tribes. They are also in cities which are prohibitively expensive for many tribal representatives to travel to for the purpose of a hearing. We therefore request that two additional hearings be held, one in a rural location within Indian country in one of the lower 48 States, and one in Alaska, for the benefit of tribes and Native Villages in that region.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this request in more detail. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted:

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