



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 19 2005

Mr. Stephen Owens
Director, Arizona Department
of Environmental Quality
1110 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

Dear Mr. Owens:

Thank you for your letter of April 15, 2005, concerning our plans for revising our regional haze regulations in response to the decision in CEED v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and your letter of March 3, 2005, expressing your commitment to your regional haze plans under Section 309 of the regional haze rule. As you know, we are very supportive of the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) and its efforts to move forward with its regional haze program.

I want to assure you that responding to the remand in the CEED case -- and enabling WRAP to move forward with an effective regional haze program -- is a high priority for me personally and for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. In a stipulation filed last Friday with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, in the context of extending our deadline for action on the Best Available Retrofit Rule (BART), we stated our intention to take final action on the CEED response by November 8, 2005. This is a very aggressive schedule, but we are committed to meeting it. We recognize the importance of this rulemaking not only to the WRAP States, but to all States that are interested in considering alternatives to source-by-source BART.

We would like to have the chance to meet with you as co-regulators to discuss your views on responding to the concerns raised by the court in CEED. I believe that a productive first step would be a meeting with Lydia Wegman and her staff who are working on this rulemaking. Please contact Lydia at 919-541-5505 to arrange a meeting at your convenience.

Again, thank you for your letters. I look forward to working together to achieve our mutual goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey R. Holmstead".

Jeffrey R. Holmstead
Assistant Administrator