State of New Mexico

Susana Martinez
Governor

May 24, 2011

Dr. Alfredo Armendariz, Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Subject: Request for Approval of Revision to the State Implementation Plan for Air Quality, for 20.11.4 NMAC, *General Conformity*

Dear Dr. Armendariz,

I am writing to request approval of the attached documentation which will serve as the basis for a revision to the New Mexico State Implementation Plan for air quality (SIP). Specifically, I am submitting documentation for the proposed revision to the regulation, 20.11.4 NMAC, *General Conformity*, which applies to Bernalillo County, New Mexico.

The Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board (AQCB) adopted these revisions on February 9, 2011, after a public comment period and subsequent public hearing held on the same evening. I believe that the submitted materials provide adequate documentation to support the requested SIP revision. The proposed regulatory changes to 20.11.4 NMAC, *General Conformity* were made in response to EPA's promulgation of an amended federal General Conformity rule on March 24, 2010, which became effective on July 6, 2010.

To meet General Conformity requirements, federal entities must demonstrate that emissions from their actions will not exceed emission budgets established in a state's plan to attain or maintain the NAAQS. EPA's revised rule improves the process federal entities use to demonstrate that their actions will not contribute to a NAAQS violation, provides tools to encourage better communication and air quality planning between states and federal agencies, and encourages both the federal agencies and the states to take early actions to ensure projects will conform to the state's plans to implement the NAAQS.

To facilitate your review and processing, the following materials are enclosed:

1) SIP Completeness Checklist pursuant to 40 CFR 51;

2) Hearing record, including transcript and exhibits;

3) Comments and responses;

4) The proposed SIP revision for 20.11.4 NMAC, *General Conformity*, adopted by the AQCB; and

5) Other supporting documentation.

Your favorable consideration of this request is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Lou Leonard, Director of the Albuquerque Environmental Health Department (EHD), at (505) 768-2631.

Sincerely,

Susana Martinez
Governor
State of New Mexico

cc: Mary Lou Leonard, Director, Albuquerque EHD
Richard Goodyear, Acting Chief, Air Quality Bureau, NM Environment Department
Margaret Menache, Chair, AQCB
Margaret Nieto, Control Strategies Section Supervisor, AQD

Enclosures