



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

August 22, 2008

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Warner Barlese, Chairperson
Summit Lake Tribal Council
1708 H Street
Sparks, NV 89431

Dear Barlese:

This letter provides information on the status of fine particle ($PM_{2.5}$) air pollution in the area where your reservation is located. Fine particle pollution represents one of the most significant barriers to clean air facing us today. Health studies link these tiny particles – about $1/30^{\text{th}}$ the diameter of a human hair – to serious human health problems including aggravated asthma, increased respiratory symptoms such as coughing and difficult or painful breathing, chronic bronchitis, decreased lung function, and even premature death in people with heart and lung disease. Fine particle pollution can remain suspended in the air for long periods of time and create public health problems far away from emission sources. Reducing levels of fine particle pollution is an important part of our commitment to clean, healthy air.

We have reviewed the air quality data, emissions data, and other related information for the area surrounding your reservation. Consistent with section 107(d) (1) of the Clean Air Act, this letter is to inform you that EPA intends to designate your reservation as attainment/unclassifiable for the 2006 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ health standard. If you would like to provide additional information about the $PM_{2.5}$ status of your reservation or adjoining areas for our consideration, please provide it to us by October 20, 2008.

EPA has taken steps to reduce fine particle pollution across the country, such as implementing the Clean Diesel Program, which has reduced emissions from highway, nonroad and stationary diesel engines. In addition, implementation plans developed by the state to attain the 1997 $PM_{2.5}$ standards will also help reduce unhealthy levels of fine particle pollution.

We intend to make final designation decisions for the 2006 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ standards by December 18, 2008. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to have your staff contact Colleen McKaughan at 520-498-0118. We look forward to a continued dialogue with you as we work together to implement the $PM_{2.5}$ standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Nastri".

Wayne Nastri
Regional Administrator

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