



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

MAY 26 2005

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable James Jeffords  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Jeffords:

I am writing to follow up on the issue of the analyses by the Environmental Protection Agency of various Clear Skies legislative proposals.

Enactment of Clear Skies is a priority for the President and for the Environmental Protection Agency. While EPA's recent rules to control power plant emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and mercury are a good start, they are not a substitute for effective legislation. Earlier this week, the President again directed me to do whatever I can to facilitate Congress' consideration and passage of Clear Skies legislation this year.

As you know, on April 21st, I proposed to direct EPA's Office of Air and Radiation to conduct additional modeling which would provide up-to-date information projecting the economic, public health and environmental effects of four multi-pollutant proposals (specifically S. 131 and S. 150, both introduced in January of this year; S. 843, introduced on April 9, 2003; and the Manager's Amendment introduced by Chairman Inhofe and Senators Voinovich and Bond on March 9th of this year). I indicated that the Agency would use the same models, techniques and assumptions in analyzing each bill and committed to producing this information within a reasonable timeframe.

Over the past few weeks, I have appreciated the opportunity to discuss with each of you, and other members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, your views concerning the need for additional information on various Clear Skies proposals. The information already available to Congress to assess multi-pollutant legislation is more than adequate to inform policy decisions. Prior to my April 21<sup>st</sup> letter to you, an enormous amount of information was made available to Congress and the public regarding Clear Skies and other multi-pollutant legislation. EPA has provided more technical information on this legislation than any other legislative proposal to amend the Clean Air Act. However, in these discussions, some Members have expressed a strong interest in obtaining modeling that includes updated assumptions and further air quality analysis.

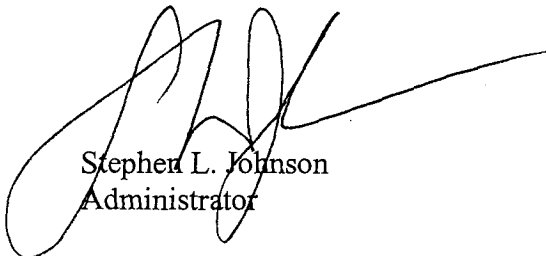
Therefore today, I am directing the EPA Office of Air and Radiation to conduct analysis of the four proposals outlined in my April 21, 2005 letter, in the manner outlined in that letter. I am also requesting that EPA staff update analysis of the Clear Skies Act of 2003 in the same manner as specified in the letter to Senator Carper. Additionally, I am directing staff to perform the necessary analytical work in order to analyze each bill for the year 2020 as well as the previously described output years of 2010 and 2015. I am hopeful that this information will help to move this debate back to the merits of the legislation. The updated and new analysis will be provided to Congress within a reasonable timeframe and with a reasonable expenditure of Agency resources.

The additional output year and analysis will be accomplished by performing air quality modeling analysis for each of the three run years using Community Multiscale Air Quality model (CMAQ) for fine particles and Comprehensive Air Quality Model (CAMx) for ozone. These models will be run for two of the five legislative proposals S. 131 and S.843. The Agency will then conduct detailed benefits analysis using the Environmental Benefits Mapping and Analysis Program (BENMAP) for these run years. Information for other legislative proposals for which CMAQ and CAMx is not directly run will benefit from additional data and certainty provided by the new analysis as well as consideration of analytical work that we have recently completed for the Clean Air Interstate Rule. This more extensive analysis should also assist the Agency in providing very high quality information for all model outputs and allow for further "apples to apples" comparison between all legislative proposals.

Now that our technical work on the CAIR and CAMR rulemaking is complete, EPA should be able to complete all the work outlined in this letter within 10 to 12 weeks. I intend to provide the information to Congress as soon as reasonably possible and will work closely with the committees of jurisdiction over Clean Air Act legislation.

Getting Clear Skies legislation to the President's desk is of utmost importance. I am confident that this new updated and additional information will help us reach this goal. Should you require further information on this effort, please contact Diann Frantz in the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 564-3668.

Sincerely,



Stephen L. Johnson  
Administrator