

Mr. Michael L. Teague
Hunton & Williams
1900 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Teague:

This letter responds to your petition for review of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final regional haze rule on behalf of the Utility Air Regulatory Group and National Mining Association. The regional haze rule, which I signed on April 22, 1999, and published in the Federal Register on July 1, 1999, establishes a framework for the protection and improvement of scenic visibility in our national parks and wilderness areas.

We received another petition for reconsideration of the regional haze rule on behalf of the Center for Energy and Economic Development and a number of other organizations. We have reviewed the two petitions to determine whether the petitions raised issues that would justify reconsideration of the rule. After a careful review, we have determined that the issues raised in both petitions for reconsideration are issues that could have been raised during the comment period and/or are not of central relevance to the rulemaking. The issues raised in the petitions accordingly do not meet the criteria for reconsideration and therefore we have denied the petitions. A detailed explanation of our determination is enclosed.

The EPA remains committed to the protection of air quality in our treasured national parks and wilderness areas, and has encouraged States and Tribes to work together to help solve the problem of regional haze and visibility impairment. We are currently providing funding to five regional planning organizations to enable the States and Tribes to conduct technical analyses and to develop policy recommendations to address this important issue. Through collaboration, we believe the States and Tribes will be able to set effective goals for improving visibility in Class I areas across the country.

Sincerely,

Carol M. Browner

Enclosure

cc:

Ray Bacon, Nevada Manufacturers Association
F. William Brownell, Hunton and Williams
Sam Cassidy, Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry
Rae Cronmiller, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
Stan Dempsey, Jr., Colorado Petroleum Association
Kevin L. Fast, Hunton and Williams
Russ Fields, Nevada Mining Association
Pamela K. Graika, Northern States Power Company
Bruce Imsdahl, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
David P. Jeronimus, Minnesota Power
Michael Johnston, Michigan Manufacturers Association
G. Richard Judd, Utah Municipal Power Agency
Christine Kadlub, Colorado Utilities Coalition
Marion Loomis, Wyoming Mining Association
Henry V. Nickel, Hunton and Williams
Frederick D. Palmer, Western Fuels Association
Harold P. Quinn, Jr., National Mining Association
Terry Ross, Center for Energy and Economic Development
Stuart Sanderson, Colorado Mining Association
Quinlan J. Shea, III, National Mining Association
Bill Wemhoff, American Public Power Association

Mr. Paul M. Seby
Friedlob Sanderson Raskin Paulson & Tourtillott, LLC
1400 Glenarm Place
Denver, Colorado 80202-5099

Dear Mr. Seby:

This letter responds to your petition for review of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final regional haze rule on behalf of the Center for Energy and Economic Development and several other organizations. The regional haze rule, which I signed on April 22, 1999, and published in the Federal Register on July 1, 1999, establishes a framework for the protection and improvement of scenic visibility in our national parks and wilderness areas.

We received another petition for reconsideration of the regional haze rule on behalf of the Utility Air Regulatory Group and National Mining Association. We have reviewed the two petitions to determine whether the petitions raised issues that would justify reconsideration of the rule. After a careful review, we have determined that the issues raised in both petitions for reconsideration are issues that could have been raised during the comment period and/or are not of central relevance to the rulemaking. The issues raised in the petitions accordingly do not meet the criteria for reconsideration and therefore we have denied the petitions. A detailed explanation of our determination is enclosed.

The EPA remains committed to the protection of air quality in our treasured national parks and wilderness areas, and has encouraged States and Tribes to work together to help solve the problem of regional haze and visibility impairment. We are currently providing funding to five regional planning organizations to enable the States and Tribes to conduct technical analyses and to develop policy recommendations to address this important issue. Through collaboration, we believe the States and Tribes will be able to set effective goals for improving visibility in Class I areas across the country.

Sincerely,

Carol M. Browner

Enclosure

2

cc:

Ray Bacon, Nevada Manufacturers Association
F. William Brownell, Hunton and Williams
Sam Cassidy, Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry
Rae Cronmiller, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
Stan Dempsey, Jr., Colorado Petroleum Association
Kevin L. Fast, Hunton and Williams
Russ Fields, Nevada Mining Association
Pamela K. Graika, Northern States Power Company
Bruce Imsdahl, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
David P. Jeronimus, Minnesota Power
Michael Johnston, Michigan Manufacturers Association
G. Richard Judd, Utah Municipal Power Agency
Christine Kadlub, Colorado Utilities Coalition
Marion Loomis, Wyoming Mining Association
Henry V. Nickel, Hunton and Williams
Frederick D. Palmer, Western Fuels Association
Harold P. Quinn, Jr., National Mining Association
Terry Ross, Center for Energy and Economic Development
Stuart Sanderson, Colorado Mining Association
Quinlan J. Shea, III, National Mining Association
Bill Wemhoff, American Public Power Association