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Dennis E. Ellis, Executive Director

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

January 25, 2006

Mark Stiles
Forest Supervisor/Center Manager
San Juan Public Lands Center
15 Burnett Court
Durango, CO 81301

Dear Mr. Stiles:

This letter further clarifies comments in my January 6, 2005 letter to you regarding mitigation strategies to reduce the adverse air quality impacts of oil and gas development in the Four Corners region. As stated in my previous letter, Colorado remains concerned that this project and other proposed oil and gas leasing projects in the region would adversely affect air quality in Colorado. The cumulative air quality analysis completed for the EIS predicts impacts that significantly degrade air quality, including negative impacts to visibility in national parks and wilderness areas.

Regarding the control of nitrogen oxide emissions from engines, control measures on all engines installed in the Four Corners region will be environmentally beneficial in reducing adverse air quality impacts of oil and gas development. As such, the APCD strongly urges that the BLM and the USFS immediately establish in every application for Permit to Drill a mandatory nitrogen oxide (NO_x) limit of 2.0 grams per horsepower hour for all new and replacement engines less than 300 hp (excluding very small engines with horsepower less than 40). For all new and replacement engines greater than 300 hp, the APCD strongly urges that the BLM and the USFS immediately establish in every application for Permit to Drill a mandatory NO_x limit of 1.0 gram per horsepower hour.

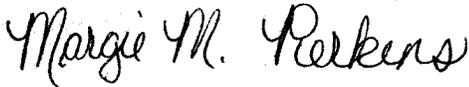
Additionally, I would also encourage that for oil and gas facilities, controls be established for volatile organic compound-emitting sources and other sources of NO_x.

These control measures are necessary to reduce impacts to visibility, ozone concentrations, nitrogen deposition and PSD increments at least until the Four Corners Air Quality Task Force completes further study and recommends comprehensive, long-term control strategies for the region. I appreciate the opportunity to work with the BLM

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and USFS and if you have any questions about our position, please contact me at (303) 692-3115 or Mike Silverstein (303) 692-3113.

Sincerely,



Margie Perkins
Director
Air Pollution Control Division

cc via E-mail:

Four Corners Air Quality Task Force members
Mike Silverstein, Air Pollution Control Division
Bob Jorgenson, Air Pollution Control Division
Dave Ouimette, Air Pollution Control Division
Mark McMillan, Air Pollution Control Division
Chuck Machovek, Air Pollution Control Division
Chris Dann, Air Pollution Control Division