

January 3, 2002

N3615 (2350)

Mr. S. William Becker
Executive Director
STAPPA /ALAPCO
444 North Capitol St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Becker:

The National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) have developed a Deposition Analysis Threshold (DAT) for sulfur deposition within NPS and FWS Class I air quality areas. The DAT for sulfur follows the development of a DAT for nitrogen, which was presented in an August 1, 2001, letter to you. Both DATs were developed in response to requests by permitting authorities and permit applicants to develop consistent, predictable permit review processes. Through this letter and the enclosed guidance document, we seek to inform you of this refinement in our permit review process. The nitrogen and sulfur DATs will also be used in reviewing National Environmental Policy Act and other relevant documents. We would appreciate your sharing this document with your members so that they can incorporate the use of these DATs into state and local planning, guidance, and permit review processes.

The final Federal Land Manager's Air Quality Related Values Work Group (FLAG) report states that State agencies and others who intend to use the FLAG information "deserve further guidance and implementation assistance, provided through established formal and informal links between FLMs, States, EPA, and others." (page 151). This DAT and guidance document are a continuation of this ongoing commitment. By developing DATs, the NPS and FWS seek to improve the review process by providing a quantitative value with which to evaluate nitrogen and sulfur deposition in Class I areas. By providing applicants, permitting authorities, and the FLMs with a specific value with which to evaluate potential impacts, we believe that the use of DATs will help to expedite the permit review process when NPS and FWS Class I areas are involved. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS), a collaborator in the FLAG process, currently uses separate deposition thresholds, and the DATs may not apply to USFS Class I air quality areas.

Enclosed please find a copy of *Guidance on Deposition Analysis Thresholds*. This document discusses both the nitrogen DAT as well as the new sulfur DAT. We are providing this single guidance document so that interested parties will have a clear understanding of the DAT development process and how it will be utilized by the NPS and FWS. This document will also be made available at the following web addresses:

<http://www.aqd.nps.gov/ard/flagfree>
<http://www.aqd.nps.gov/ard/whnew.htm>

Please notify your member states, local agencies, and other interested parties as to the availability of this document. We understand that it may take some time to incorporate this guidance into the permit review process.

We would welcome any questions that you may have regarding the DATs or guidance document. Please contact Don Coddling (303-969-2076) or Tamara Blett (303-969-2011) of the NPS, or Ellen Porter of the FWS at (303) 969-2617.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Christine L. Shaver
Chief, Air Resources Division
National Park Service

Sandra V. Silva
Chief, Air Quality Branch
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Enclosure

cc:

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