



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

FEB 19 2002

4APT-APB

Howard L. Rhodes, Director
Division of Air Resources Management
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Mail Station 5500
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

Dear Mr. Rhodes:

The Region 4 Office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received your smoke management program (SMP) and certification that Florida's SMP meets the intent of EPA's *Interim Air Quality Policy On Wildland And Prescribed Fires* (April 23, 1998). Since Florida has certified that a basic SMP is being implemented, special consideration may be given to particulate matter violations attributed to fires managed for resource benefits. The interim policy does require that the link between the fires and the measured air quality be documented and maintained in State files.

EPA appreciates Florida's instrumental role in the development of the interim policy through its active participation with the multi-stakeholder task force on prescribed burning and air quality. If you have any questions regarding SMPs or the interim policy, please contact me or have your staff contact Steven Scofield of the EPA Region 4 staff at (404) 562-9034.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Winston A. Smith" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Winston A. Smith
Director
Air, Pesticides and Toxics
Management Division

cc: Kenneth Woodard, OAQPS
John Seitz, OAQPS