



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

JUL 21 2009

Mr. James P. Johnston, P.E.
Program Manager
Planning and Support Program
Air Protection Branch
Georgia Environmental Protection Division
4244 International Parkway, Suite 120
Atlanta, Georgia 30354

Dear Mr. Johnston:

The purpose of this letter is to acknowledge receipt of your March 27, 2009, letter which contained Georgia's state-certified Smoke Manage Plan (SMP) and associated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD), Wildlife Resources Division and the Georgia Forestry Commission. We have reviewed the SMP and have found that it adequately addresses the provisions of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 1998 Interim Air Quality Policy on Wildland and Prescribed Fires.

Please note that EPA is in the process of revising and updating the 1998 Interim Policy. We expect that a draft of the revised policy will be released for public review and comment before the end of 2009. We plan to notify you and other interested stakeholders when the draft policy is made available for review. Additionally, we recommend that EPD review the revised policy once it becomes final (expected to occur in 2010) and consider revision of your SMP to address any new guidance provided in the final policy.

If you have any questions in regards to this letter, please contact Rick Gillam of my staff at (404) 562-9049 or gillam.rick@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard A. Schutt".

Richard A. Schutt
Chief
Air Planning Branch