OCT 1 4 2011

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow:

Thank you for your inquiry on the status of EPA's Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter. Particulate matter includes fine particles (known as PM2.5) and coarse particles (known as PM10). PM2.5 can come from fossil-fuel combustion, including power plants and motor vehicles, and wildfires and PM10 can come from construction and demolition activities, industrial operations, wildfires, and dust from unpaved roads. It is well established that particulate matter emissions are linked to premature death and numerous adverse health impacts.

We have been making steady progress in reducing emissions of particulate matter—both fine and coarse--in this country for more than two decades, improving the public health of Americans while the economy has continued to grow.

It is important that a standard for particulate matter be protective of the health of the public. Based on my consideration of the scientific record, analysis provided by EPA scientists, and advice from the Clean Air Science Advisory Council, I am prepared to propose the retention – with no revision - of the current PM10 standard and form when it is sent to OMB for interagency review.

This rulemaking package will also consider the latest scientific evidence and assessments for PM2.5. Again, thank you for the inquiry. It is EPA's responsibility to protect the health of all Americans – rural and urban - from known pollutants, including particulate matter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or your staff can contact Arvin Ganesan, Associate Administrator for the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 564 – 4741.

Sincerely,

Lisa P. Jackson