



**Emilie E. Helms**  
Air Quality Coordinator  
130 Gillespie Street, Fayetteville, NC 28301  
Telephone (910) 678-7614  
E-mail: ehelms@co.cumberland.nc.us  
Website: www.fampo.org/airquality

## **AIR QUALITY STAKEHOLDERS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY**

February 20, 2008

For More Information: Emilie E. Helms  
910-678-7614 ehelms@co.cumberland.nc.us  
For Immediate Release

### **Cumberland County Reaches Air Quality Attainment Status**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that Cumberland County has met federal ozone standards and will be named in attainment for air quality. Cumberland County, led by the Air Quality Stakeholders, has been working together for five years to improve air quality. Twelve other areas nationwide, including Greensboro and Hickory, North Carolina have been named as meeting the national ozone standard.

“Our county, its elected leadership, our military neighbors and local citizen groups have been working diligently to improve air quality through the Early Action Compact. The attainment designation for Cumberland County by the EPA shows that Cumberland County took the right path and stayed the course when it came to improving our air quality,” said George Breece, Air Quality Stakeholders Chairman. “Our county must and will continue to Be Aware of Our Air, as the EPA has recently proposed changing the ozone standard to better protect human health and the environment.”

All of the municipalities in Cumberland County and citizen groups have been working to reduce ground-level ozone (smog) as quickly as possible through an agreement called the Early Action Compact. The Early Action Compact requires communities to develop and implement air pollution control strategies, account for emissions growth and achieve and maintain the national 8-hour ozone standard. Cumberland County met all of these milestones, including the final requirement to demonstrate attainment of the ozone standard by December 31, 2007.

“The past, present and continued cooperative actions of all the citizens of Cumberland County have been extremely instrumental in our achieving and maintaining air quality attainment status,” said Emilie Helms, Cumberland County Air Quality Coordinator. “The Combined Air Team created from the Air Quality Stakeholders, Sustainable Sandhills, Sustainable Fort Bragg and the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources are continuing the important work of improving our air quality.”

Please see the attached EPA News Brief.

---End---

*A healthful environment for all current and future citizens of Cumberland County*

**George Breece**  
Chairman

**Steven Blanchard**  
Vice-Chairman

**Commissioner Eleanor Ayers**  
Town of Stedman

**Councilman Keith Bates**  
City of Fayetteville

**COL Gregory Bean (Retired)**  
Fort Bragg Military Reservation

**Gary Cooper**  
Cumberland County Business Council

**Commissioner Jeannette Council**  
Cumberland County

**Edwin Deaver**  
Citizen

**Dr. Joseph Follet, MD**  
Lafayette Clinic

**Michael Green**  
Cohen and Green

**Henry Holt**  
Holt Oil Company

**Karl Legatski**  
Citizen

**Commissioner Jerry Legge**  
Town of Hope Mills

**Joseph W. Levister, Jr.**  
Fayetteville Technical Community College

**Dr. Harold Maxwell, DDS**  
Cumberland County Board of Health

**Donovan McLaurin**  
Homebuilders Association

**Alderman James O'Garra**  
Town of Spring Lake

**Scott Peters**  
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

**Scott Reynolds**  
MJ Soffe Company

**Denise Sykes**  
Towns of Falcon, Godwin, Linden and Wade

**Stephen Waters**  
Barnhill Contracting Co.

## News Brief

If you need more information on this subject, call the listed Press Officer

For Release: (Washington, D.C. – Thursday, Jan. 31, 2008)

### Communities Reduce Smog Ahead of Schedule

Contact: Dave Ryan, (202) 564-4355 / [ryan.dave@epa.gov](mailto:ryan.dave@epa.gov)

EPA plans to designate 13 areas as attaining the 1997 8-hour ozone standard under Early Action Compact agreements. EPA is proposing this action because each of the areas has demonstrated that they attained the standard by Dec. 31, 2007.

Early Action Compacts give certain local areas the flexibility to develop their own approach to meeting the 8-hour ozone standard, provided the communities control emissions from local sources earlier than the Clean Air Act would otherwise require. For areas that do not meet the ozone standard, attainment dates range from 2009-2021, depending upon the severity of the ozone problem.

The 13 Early Action Compact areas that have attained the 8-hour ozone standard are:

Frederick County/Winchester, Va.  
Roanoke, Va.  
Washington County/Hagerstown, Md.  
Berkeley and Jefferson Counties, W.Va.  
Hickory area, N.C.  
Greensboro area, N.C.  
Fayetteville, N.C.  
Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson, S.C.  
Columbia area, S.C.  
Chattanooga area, Tenn.  
Nashville area, Tenn.  
Johnson City-Kingsport-Bristol area, Tenn.  
San Antonio area, Texas

EPA has been working with these areas to reduce ground-level ozone, or smog, as quickly as possible. Together with EPA, these communities entered into agreements called Early Action Compacts. The Early Action Compacts program has provided a strong incentive for state and local governments, civic leaders and business to develop innovative, cost-effective strategies for improving ozone air quality that are tailored to individual communities.

By reducing pollution ahead of schedule, these communities are bringing sustainable health and environmental improvements to their residents sooner than would have been achieved without these agreements.

More information on the Early Action Compact Program: <http://www.epa.gov/air/eac/>