

# **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## **Recommendation Regarding Air Quality Monitoring in Fairfax County**

**April 14, 2010**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has proposed to cease operation of the four air quality monitors that have historically been operated by Fairfax County and to continue to operate the DEQ monitor that is located at Lee District Park (within Fairfax County). In furtherance of ensuring protection of public health and the environment, it is EQAC's view that those monitors that report the highest ozone levels should be retained. Because the Mount Vernon monitor has reported the highest repeated ozone levels for more years than any other monitor in Fairfax County within the past 10 years, EQAC concludes that the Mount Vernon monitor should be used to assess whether we are or are not meeting the atmospheric ozone standard.

DEQ has posted its recommended changes to the air quality monitoring network on its Web site (<http://www.deq.state.va.us/air/permitting/monitoring.htm>) as part of its Annual Air Monitoring Network review. The review documents are available for public comment through April 30, 2010.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

EQAC recommends that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors provide comments to DEQ regarding its Annual Air Monitoring Network review. Specifically, EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors request that DEQ include one or more of the existing Fairfax County monitors in its future monitoring plans. Given the historically higher level of ozone concentrations at the Mount Vernon station, as compared to the other stations in the county, EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors request that DEQ include the Mount Vernon station in the regional monitoring plans.