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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EARLY ACTION COMPACT ON SMOG WORKING WELL FOR FAYETTEVILLE AIR QUALITY

FAYETTEVILLE - Local officials are pleased with the news emanating from the Environmental Protection Agency last week about Fayetteville.

EPA officials listed Fayetteville, NC among fourteen communities who are ahead of schedule in attaining the standard for clean air established by EPA. This action defers the date that the Fayetteville community would be deemed in non-attainment. If Fayetteville meets the stringent ozone standards by December 31, 2007, which it is on track to do, the community would then be deemed in attainment of clean air standards.

Rick Heicksen, a Senior Transportation Planner with Cumberland County, says, "This is good news for the community and the stakeholders of the Early Action Compact."

The stakeholders to whom Mr. Heicksen refers are the representatives from many community agencies. They have been working for more than three years to heighten awareness among the citizenry of the importance of air quality and ways to improve it.

Steven Vozzo, Fayetteville's regional supervisor with the NC Division of Air Quality, was enthusiastic in his comments on the news.

"I am very proud of this community and the way it has worked to achieve this," he said. "These Early Action Compacts are proving to be very effective in achieving a higher standard of air quality."

The Early Action Compacts provide incentive for state and local governments, civic leaders and business interests to develop strategies for improving ozone air quality.

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