

Georgia Department of Natural Resources **Environmental Protection Division**

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Judson H. Turner, Director
(404) 656-4713

SEP 14 2015

Ms. Heather McTeer Toney
Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3104

Re: Georgia's Recommendations for SO₂ Attainment Areas Near Georgia Power's Plant Scherer
in Monroe County

Dear Ms. McTeer Toney:

On June 2, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revised the primary national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for sulfur dioxide (SO₂) by establishing a new 1-hour standard at a level of 75 parts per billion (ppb). EPA is required to conduct an expedited round of SO₂ attainment status designations by July 2, 2016 as a result of the consent decree between the EPA and Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council. Based on this schedule, states are required to provide recommendations and supporting information to EPA for this round of designations by September 18, 2015. The expedited round of designations are categorized into two groups: (1) areas that have newly monitored violations and (2) areas that contain any stationary source, not announced for retirement, that emitted more than 16,000 tons of SO₂, or emitted more than 2,600 tons of SO₂ and had a emission rate greater than 0.45 lbs/MMbtu in 2012.

Plant Scherer is a stationary source located in Monroe County whose 2012 emissions were greater than 16,000 tons of SO₂ in 2012. Therefore, the area surrounding Plant Scherer has been identified for early designation. Plant Scherer is located in Juliette, GA, just north of Macon and approximately 70 miles south of Atlanta. Georgia Power has submitted a dispersion modeling report and related modeling files prepared by AECOM, Inc. to support this early designation. Georgia EPD has reviewed the modeling report and files to ensure that the dispersion modeling has been conducted in accordance with the final Data Requirements Rule (DRR) and Modeling Technical Assistance Document (TAD) using the most recently available information.

Based on the modeling analysis, SO₂ emissions from Plant Scherer do not cause or contribute to any violations of the 1-hour SO₂ NAAQS. Besides Plant Scherer, there are no other sources of SO₂ in Monroe County. In addition, there are no large sources of SO₂ in or nearby any of the neighboring counties (Bibb, Jones, Jasper, Butts, Lamar, Upson, and Crawford). Therefore, Georgia EPD is recommending the following counties be designed unclassifiable/attainment for the 2010 1-hour SO₂ NAAQS:

- Monroe County,
- Bibb County,
- Jones County,
- Jasper County,
- Butts County,
- Lamar County,
- Upson County, and
- Crawford County

Should you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact James Boylan at (404) 363-7014.

Sincerely,



Judson H. Turner
Director

JHT:JB

c: Lynorae Benjamin, EPA Region 4
Karen Hays, Branch Chief, EPD Air Protection Branch

Attachments