



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Pat McCrory
Governor

John E. Skvarla, III
Secretary

January 23, 2013

Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming
Regional Administrator
USEPA, Region 4
Sam Nunn Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

Dear Ms. Fleming:

On behalf of Governor Pat McCrory, I am writing to provide an update on North Carolina's ambient air quality data as you and your colleagues at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) prepare to finalize area boundary designations for the June 2, 2010 1-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for sulfur dioxide (SO₂).

As you know, North Carolina had one monitor violating the 2010 SO₂ NAAQS located in Wilmington, North Carolina (New Hanover County) based on 2009-2011 data. The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) has been actively working with the sources located in the Wilmington region since the promulgation of the new 1-hour SO₂ standard to determine which sources may be causing or contributing to the violation of this standard. Three permits were opened and conditions changed to address those sources significantly impacting the New Hanover County monitor. I am happy to report that the 2012 preliminary data show compliance with the 2010 SO₂ standard, when the three year period of 2010-2012 is considered. The data are currently being quality assured by the NCDENR staff. I anticipate that the 2012 data will be uploaded to the USEPA's national database by January 29, 2013. Further, NCDENR will certify the 2012 data for the New Hanover County site by January 31, 2013, so that the most recent data can be considered by USEPA in the designation process later this year.

North Carolina is committed to protecting the health of our citizens, our environment, and our economy. Solving our SO₂ and other air quality problems is critical to achieving those goals. Thank you for the opportunity to provide the most recent air quality data.

Sincerely,

John E. Skvarla
Secretary

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cc: The Honorable Pat McCrory
The Honorable Steve Troxler
The Honorable Tony Tata
The Honorable Sharon Decker
Sheila C. Holman