FEB 0 6 2013

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
State Capitol Building
101 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Governor Sandoval:

Thank you for your staff's recommendations dated May 3, 2011 on air quality designations for the state of Nevada for the 2010 revision to the primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard for sulfur dioxide (SO_2). Reducing levels of SO_2 pollution is an important part of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) commitment to a clean, healthy environment. Exposure to SO_2 can cause a range of adverse health effects, including narrowing of the airways which can cause difficulty breathing and increased asthma symptoms. This letter is to notify you of the EPA's preliminary intentions regarding your recommended designations.

On June 3, 2010, the EPA strengthened the health-based or "primary" standard for SO_2 by establishing a standard for 1-hour average SO_2 concentrations at a level of 75 parts per billion. The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to complete the initial designations process within two years of promulgating a new or revised standard. If the Administrator has insufficient information to make these designations, the EPA has the authority to extend the designation process by up to one year. On July 27, 2012, the EPA announced that it had insufficient information to complete the designations for the 1-hour SO_2 standard within two years and extended the designations deadline to June 3, 2013.

At this time the EPA is proceeding with designating as nonattainment most areas in locations where existing monitoring data from 2009-2011 indicate violations of the 1-hour SO_2 standard. The EPA intends to address the designations for all other areas in separate future actions. With input from a diverse group of stakeholders, EPA has developed a comprehensive implementation strategy for these future actions that focuses resources on identifying and addressing unhealthy levels of SO_2. The strategy is available at: www.epa.gov/airquality/sulfurdioxide/implement.html. The EPA will continue to work closely with you and our other partners at the state, tribal and local levels to ensure health-protective, common sense implementation of the 1-hour SO_2 standard.

The EPA's review of the most recent monitored air quality data from 2009-2011 shows no violations of the 2010 SO_2 standard in any areas in Nevada. Consequently, the EPA is not yet prepared to propose designation action in Nevada and is therefore currently deferring action to designate areas in Nevada. The EPA expects to be able to proceed with designation action in Nevada once additional data are gathered pursuant to our comprehensive implementation strategy. In a separate future action or actions

the EPA will notify you of our intended designations for these areas, and seek public comment on these actions, no later than 120 days prior to promulgating any final designations.

We look forward to a continued dialogue with you and your staff as we work together to implement the 2010 primary SO_2 standard. For additional information regarding initial designations of the SO_2 standard, please visit our website at: www.epa.gov/so2designations. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me, or have your staff contact Deborah Jordan, Director, Air Division at 415-947-8715, or jordan.deborah@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

for Jared Blumenfeld

cc: Colleen Cripps, Administrator, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
    Mike Elges, Deputy Administrator, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
    Rob Bamford, Chief, Air Quality Planning Bureau, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
    Lewis Wallenmeyer, Director, Clark County Department of Air Quality and Environmental
        Management
    Kevin Dick, Director, Air Quality Management Division, Washoe County Board of Health
    Gina McCarthy, Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation
    Stephen D. Page, Director, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards