



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

MAR 16 2016

Mr. Tommy Wells, Director
Department of Energy and Environment
1200 First Street, NE, 5th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Director Wells:

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Tommy".

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I would like to thank you for your November 4, 2015 submittal identifying sources to be characterized under the sulfur dioxide (SO₂) Data Requirements Rule (DRR).¹ I am writing to respond to your submittal and provide additional information about the next steps in this source characterization effort, which will result in important data that states and the EPA will use to protect public health.

On August 21, 2015, the EPA finalized the DRR, which requires state air agencies to characterize ambient SO₂ levels in areas with large sources of SO₂ emissions to help implement the 1-hour SO₂ National Air Ambient Quality Standard (NAAQS). Under the DRR, state air agencies must, at a minimum, model or monitor air quality around sources that emit 2,000 tons per year (tpy) or more of SO₂ and that are not located in an area already designated nonattainment. For a source listed because it emitted more than 2,000 tpy, an air agency may avoid this requirement by adopting federally enforceable emission limits by January 13, 2017, that ensure that the source will emit less than 2,000 tpy of SO₂.

Under the DRR implementation schedule, state air agencies were required to submit to the EPA by January 15, 2016, a list that identifies all sources within its jurisdiction with SO₂ emissions of 2,000 tpy or more during the most recent year for which emissions data are available. Air agencies or the EPA may also include additional sources on a state's source list with SO₂ emissions below 2,000 tpy to ensure that air quality around such sources is appropriately characterized.

The EPA has reviewed your agency's submittal and concurs that there are no SO₂ sources that would require air quality characterization. As such, the EPA is not adding other sources to the list at this time. Please note that a copy of each state air agency's submittal and a compiled national list of sources subject to DRR requirements are posted on EPA's SO₂ implementation website at www3.epa.gov/airquality/sulfurdioxide/implement.html. We also plan to post this letter on that site in the near future.

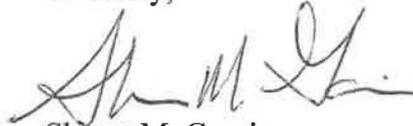
¹ "Data Requirements Rule for the 2010 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS); Final Rule," 80 *Federal Register* 51052, August 21, 2015.



Again, thank you for your letter and for your efforts to implement this important standard. For additional information concerning the DRR, please visit our SO₂ implementation website listed above. For additional information regarding designations under the SO₂ standard, please visit our website at www.epa.gov/so2designations.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Mr. Brian Hamilton, EPA's District of Columbia Liaison, at (215) 814-5497. For questions regarding this approval action, your staff may contact Mr. Nikos Singelis, Acting Director, Air Protection Division, at (215) 814-2132.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn M. Garvin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Shawn M. Garvin
Regional Administrator

cc: Ms. Cecily Beall, DOEE