



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1
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BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

MAR 17 2016

Paul Mercer, Commissioner
Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0017

Dear Commissioner Mercer:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I would like to thank you for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's January 13, 2016 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 Ambient Air 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 is identifying William F Wyman Station as an additional source that the DRR requires to be characterized. As such, the EPA will be adding this source to your state's list of applicable sources under the DRR.

As you may know, SO₂ emissions from Wyman Station during 2015 were reported as 1,751 tpy,² with the month of February 2015 having over 1,130 tons. Though total annual SO₂ emissions from Wyman have declined in recent years, it appears that Wyman's operation from month to month is highly variable, and that may continue into the future. Our understanding is that oil-fired electric generating units such as Wyman are being called on to meet peak demand

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.

² Data source: Clean Air Markets Division, Air Markets Program Data

when natural gas supplies are constrained in the Region. When this occurs, daily SO₂ emissions from Wyman can be quite high. For example, in 2015, Wyman had 22 days with SO₂ emissions greater than 40 tons per day. Therefore, the EPA believes that it is appropriate and necessary to characterize William F Wyman under the Data Requirements Rule.

The next key milestone for purposes of DRR implementation is July 1, 2016, the date by which each air agency must identify, for each listed source, the approach it will use to characterize air quality in the respective area (air quality modeling or ambient monitoring).

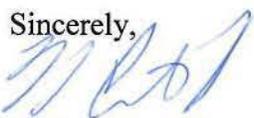
For sources that an air agency decides to evaluate through air quality modeling, the DRR requires the air agency to submit to the EPA Regional Administrator a modeling protocol by July 1, 2016, and the completed modeling analysis by January 13, 2017. For sources that an air agency decides to evaluate through ambient monitoring, the air agency will need to identify appropriate sites to characterize peak 1-hour SO₂ concentrations, and may need to relocate existing monitors or install new monitors at such sites. As further required under the DRR, the air agency must submit information about monitoring sites to the EPA Regional Administrator by July 1, 2016, as part of its annual monitoring network plan and in accordance with the EPA's monitoring requirements specified in 40 CFR part 58. The air agency must also ensure that ambient monitors will be operational by January 1, 2017.

We look forward to a continued dialogue with you and your staff as you prepare the required submittals that are due on July 1, 2016. To assist in this process, we are available to discuss any technical issues that you may have concerning either modeling or monitoring in order to assist you in meeting this requirement.

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 and to update the compiled national list with the sources added by this letter as described above in the near future.

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. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me, or have your staff contact Leiran Biton of my staff at 617-918-1267 or biton.leiran@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



H. Curtis Spalding
Regional Administrator

cc: Marc Cone, Director, Bureau of Air Quality