



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

FEB 15 2016

Mr. Kenneth Ratzman
Assistant Director
Division of Air Quality
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Mr. Ratzman:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I would like to thank you for your March 11, 2016 submittal which indicated that your state has no sources subject to the requirements of the sulfur dioxide (SO₂) Data Requirements Rule (DRR).¹ The EPA has reviewed your agency's submittal and at this time, the EPA concurs that no sources in your state need to be listed as triggering DRR air quality characterization requirements. In addition to responding to your submittal, we are providing additional information about the next steps which the EPA will be taking 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.

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 the 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. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me, or have your staff contact Richard Ruvo of my staff at 212-637-4014 or ruvo.richard@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Ariel Iglesias, Acting Director
Clean Air and Sustainability Division

cc: Francis C. Steitz, Director
Division of Air Quality
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection