



PAT McCrory  
Governor

DONALD R. VAN DER VAART  
Secretary

September 30, 2016

Heather McTeer Toney  
Regional Administrator  
USEPA Region 4  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Subject: North Carolina's Recommendations for Air Quality Designations for the 2015 8-hour Ozone Standards

Dear Ms. Toney:

Pursuant to the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 107(d)(1)(A) and on behalf of Governor Pat McCrory, I am submitting to you the state of North Carolina's recommendations concerning the boundaries within our state of areas that either attain or do not attain the October 1, 2015 primary and secondary 8-hour standards for ozone. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revised the primary and secondary standards from 0.075 parts per million (ppm) to 0.070 ppm. We are recommending that all counties in North Carolina be designated "attainment" for the revised 8-hour ozone standard.

The federal CAA requires EPA to designate areas as attainment or nonattainment following promulgation of a new National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), such as the October 1, 2015 8-hour standard for ozone. The EPA has asked states for their recommendations for nonattainment boundaries by October 1, 2016. The EPA has recommended in guidance that a state base its boundary recommendations for the revised primary and secondary ozone standard using the three most recent years of certified air quality monitoring data (i.e., 2013 - 2015).<sup>1</sup> However, the guidance notes that EPA's final decision on a state's recommendations (due by October 1, 2017) will be based on 2014 - 2016 certified ozone monitoring data. Although 2016 monitoring data will not be certified until after the current ozone season (i.e., October 31, 2016), a state may also review and consider preliminary 2016 data in developing its recommendations due to EPA by October 1, 2016.

Over the past decade, North Carolina has implemented substantial, progressive emissions reductions that have resulted in statewide attainment of the 1997 8-hour and 2008 8-hour ozone standards. This improvement has been achieved through hard work and partnerships with our

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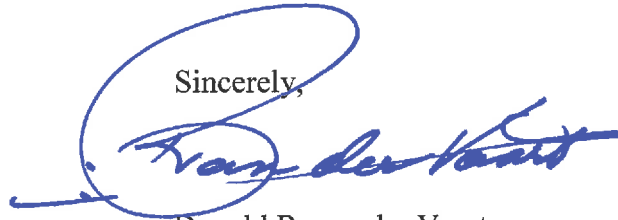
<sup>1</sup> Memorandum from McCabe, Janet G., Acting EPA Assistant Administrator, to EPA Regional Administrators, *Area Designations for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards*, February 25, 2016.

many local, state, and federal partners. North Carolina operates a robust ozone monitoring network with years of measurement, quality-assurance, and data analysis experience. Based on the 2013 - 2015 certified ambient monitoring data, the design values for all ozone monitors in North Carolina are below the revised 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS (see Figure 1). In addition, for 2016, based on preliminary data recorded through September 11, the design values for all ozone monitors in North Carolina are below the revised 2015 ozone standard (see Figure 2). Therefore, it is North Carolina's recommendation that all counties in North Carolina be designated as "Attainment" for the revised 8-hour ozone standard, as listed in Table 1.

North Carolina is committed to protecting the health of our citizens, our environment, and our economy. Maintaining air quality is critical to the health of our citizens, our future growth, prosperity and quality of life. We look forward to continuing to work with EPA and all of our other partners to establish appropriate boundaries for the 2015 8-hour ozone standard.

If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact Sheila Holman of my staff at (919) 707-8430.

Sincerely,

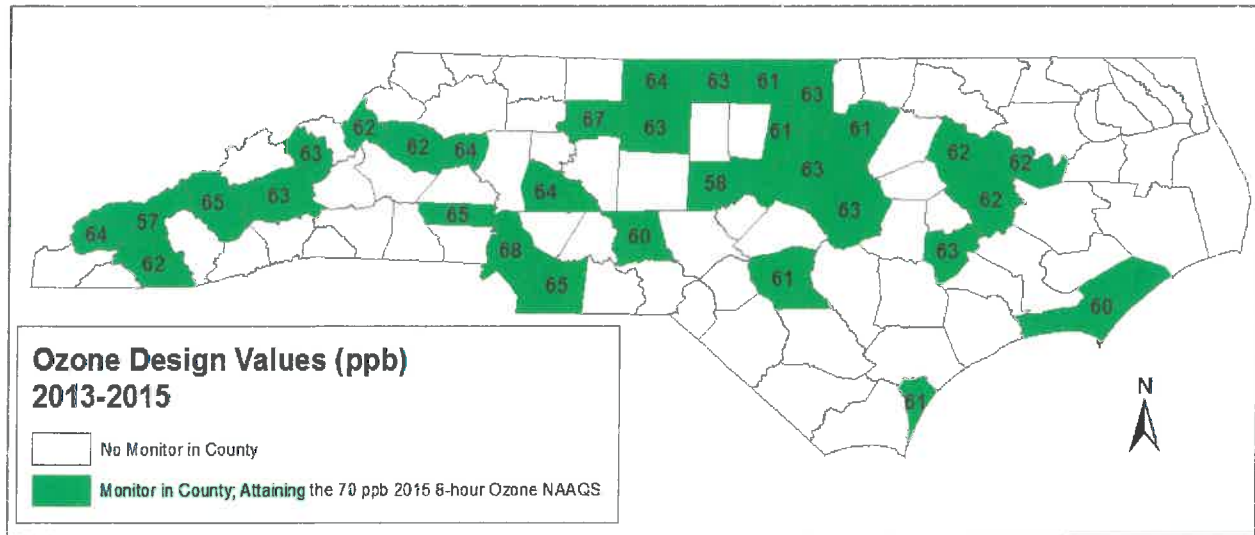


Donald R. van der Vaart  
Secretary, NCDEQ

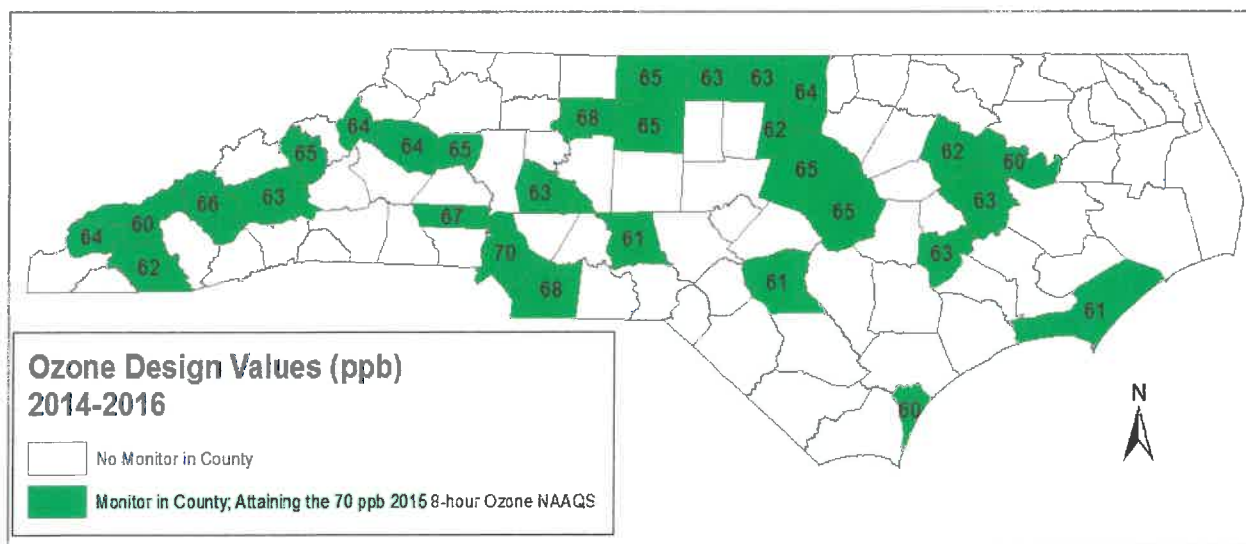
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Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Governor Pat McCrory  
Mr. John E. Skvarla, III, Secretary, NC Dept. of Commerce  
Mr. Nick Tennyson, Secretary, NC Dept. of Transportation  
Mr. Steve Troxler, Commissioner, NC Dept. of Agriculture  
Ms. Sheila C. Holman, Director, NCDAQ  
Mr. Michael Abraczinskas, Deputy Director, NCDAQ  
Mr. Scott R. Davis, USEPA  
Ms. Lynorae Benjamin, USEPA  
Mr. William Barnette, Forsyth County Office of Environmental Assistance and Protection  
Ms. Leslie Rhodes, Mecklenburg County Air Quality  
Mr. David Brigman, Western Regional Air Quality Agency



**Figure 1. Ozone Design Values for 2013-2015 for Counties with Monitors Based on 3-Year Average of 4<sup>th</sup> Highest Maximum 8-Hour Concentration.**  
 (Monitoring data for 2013-2015 are certified)



**Figure 2. Preliminary Ozone Design Values for 2014-2016 for Counties with Monitors Based on 3-Year Average of 4<sup>th</sup> Highest Maximum 8-Hour Concentration.**  
 (Monitoring data for 2014 and 2015 are certified; 2016 monitoring data are preliminary through September 11)

**Table 1. North Carolina Designation Recommendations for 2015 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard**

Designated Area	Designation Status
Alamance County	Attainment
Alexander County	Attainment
Alleghany County	Attainment
Anson County	Attainment
Ashe County	Attainment
Avery County	Attainment
Beaufort County	Attainment
Bertie County	Attainment
Bladen County	Attainment
Brunswick County	Attainment
Buncombe County	Attainment
Burke County	Attainment
Cabarrus County	Attainment
Caldwell County	Attainment
Camden County	Attainment
Carteret County	Attainment
Caswell County	Attainment
Catawba County	Attainment
Chatham County	Attainment
Cherokee County	Attainment
Chowan County	Attainment
Clay County	Attainment
Cleveland County	Attainment
Columbus County	Attainment
Craven County	Attainment
Cumberland County	Attainment
Currituck County	Attainment
Dare County	Attainment
Davidson County	Attainment
Davie County	Attainment
Duplin County	Attainment
Durham County	Attainment
Edgecombe County	Attainment
Forsyth County	Attainment
Franklin County	Attainment
Gaston County	Attainment
Gates County	Attainment
Graham County	Attainment

Designated Area	Designation Status
Granville County	Attainment
Greene County	Attainment
Guilford County	Attainment
Halifax County	Attainment
Harnett County	Attainment
Haywood County	Attainment
Henderson County	Attainment
Hertford County	Attainment
Hoke County	Attainment
Hyde County	Attainment
Iredell County	Attainment
Jackson County	Attainment
Johnston County	Attainment
Jones County	Attainment
Lee County	Attainment
Lenoir County	Attainment
Lincoln County	Attainment
Macon County	Attainment
Madison County	Attainment
Martin County	Attainment
McDowell County	Attainment
Mecklenburg County	Attainment
Mitchell County	Attainment
Montgomery County	Attainment
Moore County	Attainment
Nash County	Attainment
New Hanover County	Attainment
Northampton County	Attainment
Onslow County	Attainment
Orange County	Attainment
Pamlico County	Attainment
Pasquotank County	Attainment
Pender County	Attainment
Perquimans County	Attainment
Person County	Attainment
Pitt County	Attainment
Polk County	Attainment
Randolph County	Attainment
Richmond County	Attainment
Robeson County	Attainment
Rockingham County	Attainment

Designated Area	Designation Status
Rowan County	Attainment
Rutherford County	Attainment
Sampson County	Attainment
Scotland County	Attainment
Stanly County	Attainment
Stokes County	Attainment
Surry County	Attainment
Swain County	Attainment
Transylvania County	Attainment
Tyrrell County	Attainment
Union County	Attainment
Vance County	Attainment
Wake County	Attainment
Warren County	Attainment
Washington County	Attainment
Watauga County	Attainment
Wayne County	Attainment
Wilkes County	Attainment
Wilson County	Attainment
Yadkin County	Attainment
Yancey County	Attainment