



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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January 13, 2017

Janis Hastings, Associate Director
U.S. EPA Region 10
Office of Air, Waste and Toxics
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101

RE: Results of the modeling analysis of the levels of sulfur oxides (SO₂) in the ambient air around TransAlta Centralia Power Plant; status of area designation recommendations.

Dear Ms. Hastings:

In July 2016, Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) notified the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that Ecology plans to model SO₂ concentrations in the ambient air around TransAlta Centralia Generation, LLC (FIPS 53041). EPA requires this modeling under the 2015 Data Requirements Rule for the 2010 1-Hour SO₂ Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard. This modeling serves as a basis for EPA to designate the area as attainment (meeting the standard), nonattainment (not meeting the standard), or unclassifiable (not enough information) by December 31, 2017.

Ecology modeled TransAlta's 2014-2016 actual emissions using the WRF- MMIF v3.2- AERMET- ADJ_U*- AERMOD (v16216) system. Ecology's modeling analysis shows the SO₂ concentrations around the facility are well below the 75 parts per billion level of the standard. The attached report details Ecology's modelling process and results.

On July 22, 2016, EPA issued a memo providing information on the schedule and process for the area designations, referred to as Round 3. In Washington, this round applies to all areas of the state except two areas where Ecology established a new SO₂ monitoring network. In 2011, Ecology recommended designating all areas of the state as unclassifiable. Ecology will review the need to modify the earlier recommendation based on the results of the modeling analysis at TransAlta. If appropriate, Ecology will submit an updated designation recommendation to EPA by March 31, 2017, after a state-required public comment period (per WAC 173-400-171(12)).

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If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Anya Caudill at Anya.Caudill@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6630.

Sincerely,



Stuart A. Clark, Manager
Air Quality Program

Enclosure: *Technical Report "Air Quality Modeling Results: Levels of Sulfur Dioxide in the Ambient Air Around TransAlta Centralia Generation Power Plant"*

cc Debra Suzuki, EPA Region 10 (w/ enclosure)
Uri Papish, Southwest Clean Air Agency (w/ enclosure)
David Nicol, TransAlta Centralia Generations LLC (w/ enclosure)
Anya Caudill, Ecology (w/ enclosure, for records file)