



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

OFFICE OF THE  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

AUG 19 2014

The Honorable Janice K. Brewer  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Brewer:

Thank you for your recommendation, dated December 10, 2013, of air quality designations for the 2012 annual fine particle National Ambient Air Quality Standard (2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS) throughout Arizona. This letter is to notify you of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) preliminary response to Arizona's recommendation and to inform you of our approach for completing the initial area designations for the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS.

The EPA agrees with your December 10, 2013 recommendation. We have considered the annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> designation recommendation submitted by Arizona and have reviewed the relevant technical information, including 2011–2013 air quality data. These data do not indicate any violation of the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS in Arizona or contribution to any nearby area. Accordingly, the EPA intends to designate the entire state of Arizona as unclassifiable/attainment.

The EPA will make its preliminary designation decisions and supporting documentation available to the general public for review and comment. We will be announcing a 30-day public comment period shortly in the *Federal Register*. After considering the additional information we receive, the EPA plans to promulgate final designations for the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS in December of 2014.

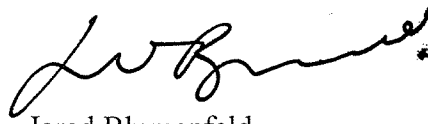
As background, on December 14, 2012, the EPA promulgated a revised primary annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS (78 FR 3086, January 15, 2013). In that action, the EPA revised the primary annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard, strengthening it from 15.0 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) to 12.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ; retained the existing 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard at 35  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ; retained the existing 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> (coarse particle) standard at 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ; and retained the current suite of secondary PM standards. The EPA revised the primary annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard based on an integrated assessment of an extensive body of new scientific evidence, which substantially strengthens our body of knowledge regarding PM<sub>2.5</sub>-related health effects. The revised primary annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard will provide increased protection for children, older adults, persons with pre-existing heart and lung disease, and other at-risk populations against an array of PM<sub>2.5</sub>-related adverse health effects, including premature mortality, increased hospital admissions and emergency department visits, and development and exacerbation of chronic respiratory disease.

The EPA designates an area as "nonattainment" if it is violating the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS or if it is contributing to a violation of the NAAQS in a nearby area. Consistent with designations for previous PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards, the EPA intends to use a designation category of "unclassifiable/attainment" for areas that are monitoring attainment or do not have monitors, and that the EPA has reason to believe are likely attainment and are not contributing to nearby violations. Additionally, the EPA intends to designate as

“unclassifiable” those areas where the EPA cannot determine based on available information whether the area is meeting the NAAQS or where EPA has not determined that the area contributes to a nearby violation. At this time, the EPA is proceeding with intended initial area designations using quality-assured, certified air quality monitoring data from 2011 to 2013.

The EPA is committed to working with the states and tribes to share the responsibility of reducing PM<sub>2.5</sub> air pollution. Current and upcoming federal standards and safeguards – including pollution reduction rules for power plants, vehicles, and fuels – will ensure steady progress to reduce PM<sub>2.5</sub>-forming pollution and will protect public health in communities across the country. We look forward to a continued dialogue with you and your staff as we work together to implement the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS. Should you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Deborah Jordan of my staff at 415-947-8715, or [jordan.deborah@epa.gov](mailto:jordan.deborah@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Blumenfeld', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jared Blumenfeld

cc: Henry R. Darwin, Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
(via email) Eric Massey, Director, Air Quality Division, Arizona Department of  
Environmental Quality