



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 1

5 Post Office Square, Suite 100

Boston, MA 02109-3912

March 20, 2017

Anne Gobin
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

RE: Adequacy Status of Transportation Conformity Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets

Dear Ms. Gobin:

By letter dated January 17, 2017, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) submitted to EPA a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision consisting of CT DEEP's attainment demonstration for the Greater Connecticut nonattainment area for the 2008 national ambient air quality standards for ozone. This SIP revision identifies 2017 summer day volatile organic compound (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEBs) associated with reasonable further progress and attainment for the Greater Connecticut 8-hour ozone nonattainment area. EPA Region 1 has determined the MVEBs for the Greater Connecticut area to be adequate for transportation conformity purposes.

On January 20, 2017, EPA posted an announcement of availability on EPA's adequacy website,¹ for the MVEBs for the Greater Connecticut area submitted by CT DEEP on January 17, 2017. The SIP revision was made available for public viewing at both the EPA Region 1 Office and at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Office. In addition, the SIP revision was made available on the CT DEEP website.² No comments were received during the 30-day adequacy comment period, which expired on February 21, 2017.

The MVEBs, in tons per summer day (tpsd), are stated in the table below:

	2017 Adequate Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets	
	Greater Connecticut Area	
	VOC (tpsd)	NO _x (tpsd)
Year 2017	15.9	22.2

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/state-and-local-transportation/state-implementation-plans-sip-submissions-currently-under-epa>

² http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2684&q=585816&deepNav_GID=1619

This letter transmits our decision that the motor vehicle emissions budgets contained in the 8-hour Ozone Attainment Demonstration, which also includes a demonstration of Reasonable Further Progress, for the Greater Connecticut 8-hour ozone nonattainment area are adequate for transportation conformity purposes. After reviewing the 8-hour Ozone Attainment Demonstration, including responses to public comments on that plan, we have preliminarily determined that the submitted budgets for 2017 are adequate for transportation conformity purposes. The submitted budgets for 2017 are consistent with the required rate of progress plan for the Greater Connecticut 8-hour ozone nonattainment area. These budgets serve to strengthen the SIP through continued progress towards attainment and ensure that motor vehicle emissions remain consistent with the emissions levels provided for in the SIP.

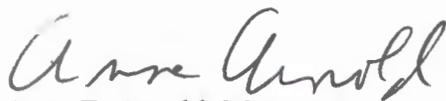
EPA continues to review the Greater Connecticut ozone attainment demonstration SIP for approvability. Nothing in this adequacy finding should be construed as prejudging the eventual outcome of our on-going review of the attainment demonstration for the area. A copy of this letter will soon be posted on the Internet at EPA's adequacy website.

CT DEEP's January 17, 2017 SIP revision also includes MVEBs for the "Southwest Connecticut Nonattainment Area." EPA is not able to evaluate these budgets at this time since CT DEEP has not yet submitted its reasonable further progress and attainment demonstration SIPs for this area. EPA will not take action, nor make an adequacy determination, on MVEBs for the 2008 ozone NAAQS for the Southwest Connecticut nonattainment area, until a SIP revision meeting the requirements for reasonable further progress or an attainment demonstration is submitted for that nonattainment area. The criteria by which EPA determines whether a SIP's MVEBs are adequate for transportation conformity purposes are outlined in 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4).

The 2017 summer day VOC and NO_x Greater Connecticut Area motor vehicle emission budgets will become effective for transportation conformity determinations 15 days after EPA publishes an announcement of this adequacy determination in the Federal Register. We will be publishing the Federal Register notice announcing our adequacy finding in the near future.

If you or your staff would like to discuss this further, please contact Ariel Garcia of my staff at (617) 918-1660.

Sincerely,



Anne E. Arnold, Manager
Air Quality Planning Unit, Office of Ecosystem Protection

cc:

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