



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

FEB 15 2017

Michelle Walker Owenby, Director
Air Pollution Control Division
Tennessee Department
of Environment and Conservation
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 15th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Dear Ms. Owenby:

Thank you for the December 20, 2016, final redesignation request and maintenance plan submittal for the Knoxville, Tennessee 1997 Annual fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) Area (hereafter referred to as the “Knoxville Area”). The Knoxville Area is comprised of the entire counties of Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon as well as a portion of Roane County.

Pursuant to Section 93.118(e)(4) of the Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93, Subpart A), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed Tennessee’s 1997 Annual PM_{2.5} redesignation request and maintenance plan for the Knoxville Area, as well as the motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEBs) contained in the maintenance plan, which were developed with the Motor Vehicle Emissions Simulator emission factor model. We have determined that these MVEBs are adequate for transportation conformity purposes.

Tennessee’s 1997 Annual PM_{2.5} maintenance plan for Knoxville has MVEBs for both PM_{2.5} and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) for 2014 and 2028. These MVEBs are presented in the table below.

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 1997 Annual PM_{2.5} MVEBs
[Tons per year]

	2014	2028
PM_{2.5}	444.78	245
NO_x	15,597.73	7,171.14

The EPA opened a comment period on the adequacy of the MVEBs contained in the Tennessee 1997 Annual PM_{2.5} maintenance plan for the Knoxville Area by posting the availability of the state implementation plan (SIP) on our website on December 22, 2016. See <https://www.epa.gov/state-and-local-transportation/adequacy-review-state-implementation-plan-sip-submissions-conformity>. The comment period for the adequacy of the MVEBs closed on January 23, 2017. No comments adverse or otherwise, were received during the EPA’s adequacy comment period.

More information on SIPs and adequacy reviews is available on the EPA website. The EPA will publish a notice in the Federal Register announcing our adequacy finding for the newly established MVEBs for the Knoxville Area in the very near future. The Federal Register notice will also announce the date that the adequacy finding becomes effective. The MVEBs will be available for use in Knoxville, Tennessee on the effective date.

The EPA has concluded that the MVEBs satisfy the requirements of 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4)(iv) which requires that MVEBs, when considered together with all other emissions sources, are consistent with applicable requirements for maintenance.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact myself or R. Scott Davis, Chief, Air Planning and Implementation Branch at (404) 562-9127.

Sincerely,



Beverly H. Banister

Director

Air, Pesticides, and Toxics Management Division

cc: Lynne Liddington, Director
Knoxville County Air Quality Management