



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

August 22, 2017

The Honorable Nathan Deal
Governor
203 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Governor Deal:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's intended designations for certain areas in Georgia for the 2010 Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for sulfur dioxide (SO₂). The designations for this NAAQS are an important part of the EPA's commitment to a clean, healthy environment. These intended designations are a response to designation-related recommendations and information your state submitted in a letter dated May 31, 2011.¹

On July 25, 2013, the EPA designated certain areas in 16 states as nonattainment, but did not at that time designate other areas. Additional areas were designated on June 30, 2016, and November 29, 2016. In Georgia, the following areas were designated in these previous actions: Juliette, GA Area (Butts, Crawford, Jasper, Jones, Lamar, Monroe and Upson Counties). Pursuant to a March 2, 2015, court-ordered schedule,² the agency must complete the remaining SO₂ designations by two specific deadlines: December 31, 2017, and December 31, 2020. Accordingly, pursuant to section 107(d)(1)(B)(ii) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), this letter is to notify you of the EPA's assessment of your state's recommended designations for all remaining undesignated areas in Georgia except areas that are associated with sources for which Georgia elected to install and begin operating a new SO₂ monitoring network. While we are in agreement with your recommendation for many of these areas, some areas warrant further discussion as explained below and in the referenced technical support document. We stand ready to assist and hope to resolve any differences regarding the proper designation for these areas within this 120-day period provided by the CAA.

To this end, if you or your staff have additional information that the EPA should consider prior to finalizing the designations, please submit it as soon as possible but no later than October 23, 2017. You may submit additional information by sending it to the EPA's public docket for these designations, EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0003, located at www.regulations.gov, and sending a copy to EPA Region 4. The EPA also will publish a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing a 30-day comment period for the public to provide input on the EPA's intended designations.

¹ In 2016 and 2017, Georgia transmitted additional information to the EPA to support their designation recommendations.

² *Sierra Club v. McCarthy*, No. 3-13-cv-3953 (SI) (N.D. Cal. Mar. 2, 2015).
Internet Address (URL) • <http://www.epa.gov>

Georgia has recommended a designation of unclassifiable/attainment for the areas indicated below. The EPA regulations for implementing the SO₂ NAAQS require Georgia to characterize SO₂ air quality in each listed area. In considering your recommendation, we have taken into account all available information, including any current (2014-2016) air monitoring data, and any air dispersion modeling analyses provided by Georgia or by a third party. Our review of this information indicates that it is consistent with your recommendation.

Intended Unclassifiable/Attainment Area	Included Counties
Chatham County, GA Area	Chatham County
Effingham County, GA Area	Effingham County
Heard County, GA Area	Heard County

Georgia has recommended a designation of unclassifiable/attainment for the area indicated below. The EPA regulations for implementing the SO₂ NAAQS require Georgia to characterize SO₂ air quality in each listed area. In considering your recommendation, we have taken into account all available information, including any current (2014-2016) air monitoring data, and any air dispersion modeling analyses provided by Georgia or by a third party. Our review of this information indicates that it is not consistent with your recommendation due to either a lack of air dispersion modeling or unresolved air dispersion modeling issues, which would require a modification of the recommended designation. We invite Georgia to review the available information and further discuss this issue with the EPA in order to inform an appropriate final designation.

Intended Unclassifiable Area	Included Counties
Bartow County, GA Area *	Bartow County

An asterisk (*) indicates that the EPA's review of the available information is not consistent with your recommendation for this county, or for a portion of it.

The Technical Support Document provides the information that supports the intended designation decisions for these areas in Georgia.³

Finally, we intend to designate as unclassifiable/attainment all remaining areas of Georgia that were not required to be characterized and for which the EPA does not have information that suggests the area may not be meeting the NAAQS or contributing to air quality in a nearby area that does not meet the NAAQS. A list of these remaining areas is included in the enclosure.

The EPA will promulgate the final designations for the areas identified in this letter by December 31, 2017. We are prepared to work with you to resolve any disagreements with respect to the available information or information gaps. We are then required to designate all other remaining undesignated areas in Georgia by December 31, 2020, consistent with the prescribed timing of the court order. Upon the completion of this designation action, the remaining area in Georgia to be designated by December 31, 2020, will be Floyd County.

³ See Chapter 10 of the Technical Support Document for the designations the EPA plans to complete by December 31, 2017, that addresses areas in Georgia. The full Technical Support Document is available at <https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations/sulfur-dioxide-designations-regulatory-actions>.

We share your goal to provide cleaner air for citizens in your state. We look forward to a continued dialogue with you and your staff as we work together to complete the area designations and implement the 2010 primary SO₂ NAAQS. For additional information regarding designations under the SO₂ NAAQS, please visit our website at <https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations>. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me, or have your staff contact Beverly Banister of my staff at 404-562-9326 or banister.beverly@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



V. Anne Heard
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Richard Dunn, Director
Environmental Protection Division (EPD)
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Karen Hays, Branch Chief
EPD Air Protection Branch

Enclosure

List of all remaining areas of Georgia that were not required to be characterized and for which EPA does not have information that suggests the area may not be meeting the NAAQS or contributing to air quality in a nearby area that does not meet the NAAQS. The EPA intends to designate each of these areas as a separate unclassifiable/attainment area.

County
Appling County
Atkinson County
Bacon County
Baker County
Baldwin County
Banks County
Barrow County
Ben Hill County
Berrien County
Bibb County
Bleckley County
Brantley County
Brooks County
Bryan County
Bulloch County
Burke County
Calhoun County
Camden County
Candler County
Carroll County
Catoosa County
Charlton County
Chattahoochee County
Chattooga County

Cherokee County
Clarke County
Clay County
Clayton County
Clinch County
Cobb County
Coffee County
Colquitt County
Columbia County
Cook County
Coweta County
Crisp County
Dade County
Dawson County
Decatur County
DeKalb County
Dodge County
Dooly County
Dougherty County
Douglas County
Early County
Echols County
Elbert County
Emanuel County
Evans County
Fannin County
Fayette County
Forsyth County
Franklin County
Fulton County

Gilmer County
GlascocK County
Glynn County
Gordon County
Grady County
Greene County
Gwinnett County
Habersham County
Hall County
Hancock County
Haralson County
Harris County
Hart County
Henry County
Houston County
Irwin County
Jackson County
Jeff Davis County
Jefferson County
Jenkins County
Johnson County
Lanier County
Laurens County
Lee County
Liberty County
Lincoln County
Long County
Lowndes County
Lumpkin County
McDuffie County

McIntosh County
Macon County
Madison County
Marion County
Meriwether County
Miller County
Mitchell County
Montgomery County
Morgan County
Murray County
Muscogee County
Newton County
Oconee County
Oglethorpe County
Paulding County
Peach County
Pickens County
Pierce County
Pike County
Polk County
Pulaski County
Putnam County
Quitman County
Rabun County
Randolph County
Richmond County
Rockdale County
Schley County
Screven County
Seminole County

Spalding County
Stephens County
Stewart County
Sumter County
Talbot County
Taliaferro County
Tattnall County
Taylor County
Telfair County
Terrell County
Thomas County
Tift County
Toombs County
Towns County
Treutlen County
Troup County
Turner County
Twiggs County
Union County
Walker County
Walton County
Ware County
Warren County
Washington County
Wayne County
Webster County
Wheeler County
White County
Whitfield County
Wilcox County

Wilkes County
Wilkinson County
Worth County