



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1  
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BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

AUG 22 2017

The Honorable Charles D. Baker  
Massachusetts State House  
Office of the Governor  
Room 280  
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Governor Baker:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) intended designations for all areas in Massachusetts for the 2010 Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>). The designations for this NAAQS are an important part of EPA's commitment to a clean, healthy environment. These intended designations are a response to the designations-related recommendation and information your state submitted in a letter dated June 2, 2011.

On July 25, 2013, 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. No areas in Massachusetts were designated in these previous actions. Pursuant to a March 2, 2015 court-ordered schedule,<sup>1</sup> the agency must complete the remaining SO<sub>2</sub> 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, this letter is to notify you of EPA's assessment of your state's recommended designation for Massachusetts. We are in general agreement with your recommendation.

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 EPA's public docket for these designations, EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0003, located at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), and sending a copy to EPA Region 1. EPA also will publish a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing a 30-day comment period for the public to provide input on EPA's intended designations.

Massachusetts has recommended a designation of unclassifiable for all areas of the state. After carefully considering Massachusetts's recommendation and all available information, we intend to designate each county of the state as unclassifiable/attainment as indicated below.<sup>2</sup> There are no areas in Massachusetts required to be characterized by monitoring or modeling, and 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

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<sup>1</sup> *Sierra Club v. McCarthy*, No. 3-13-cv-3953 (SI) (N.D. Cal. Mar. 2, 2015).

<sup>2</sup> Our intended designated areas include all areas of Indian country located in each of the indicated areas.


does not meet the NAAQS. The enclosure to this letter provides the information that supports the intended designation decision for Massachusetts.<sup>3</sup>

Unclassifiable/Attainment Area	Included Counties
Barnstable County	Barnstable County
Berkshire County	Berkshire County
Bristol County	Bristol County
Dukes County	Dukes County
Essex County	Essex County
Franklin County	Franklin County
Hampden County	Hampden County
Hampshire County	Hampshire County
Middlesex County	Middlesex County
Nantucket County	Nantucket County
Norfolk County	Norfolk County
Plymouth County	Plymouth County
Suffolk County	Suffolk County
Worcester County	Worcester County

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. Upon the completion of this designation action, there will be no remaining areas in Massachusetts to be designated.

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 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. For additional information regarding designations under the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS, please visit our website at [www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations](http://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations). Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me, or have your staff contact Leiran Biton of my staff at 617-918-1267 or [biton.leiran@epa.gov](mailto:biton.leiran@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Deborah A. Szaro  
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Martin Suuberg, Commissioner, MassDEP  
Christine Kirby, Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Air & Waste, MassDEP

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<sup>3</sup> The enclosure is Chapter 2 of the Technical Support Document (TSD) for the designations EPA plans to complete by December 31, 2017 that addresses areas in Massachusetts. The TSD is also available at [www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations](http://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations).