



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100
BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

AUG 22 2017

The Honorable Paul R. LePage
Office of the Governor
1 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0001

Dear Governor LePage:

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 Maine for the 2010 Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for sulfur dioxide (SO₂). 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 you submitted in a letter dated October 6, 2011.¹

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 Maine were designated in these previous actions. 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, this letter is to notify you of EPA's intentions regarding your recommended designation for Maine. 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, 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.

Maine has recommended a designation of unclassifiable for the entire state as indicated below. After carefully considering Maine's recommendation and all available information, we intend to designate the entire state as unclassifiable/attainment.³ This statewide area includes areas for which EPA regulations for implementing the SO₂ NAAQS require Maine to characterize SO₂ air quality by modeling or monitoring. 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

¹ Maine also provided information relevant to these designations in letters dated January 11, 2017 and June 23, 2017.

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

³ Our intended designated areas include all areas of Indian country located in each of the indicated areas.

provided by Maine or by a third party. In addition, the intended statewide unclassifiable/attainment area includes areas 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 enclosure to this letter provides the information that supports the intended designation decision for Maine.⁴

Unclassifiable/ Attainment Area	Included Counties
State of Maine	Androscoggin County, Aroostook County, Cumberland County, Franklin County, Hancock County, Kennebec County, Knox County, Lincoln County, Oxford County, Penobscot County, Piscataquis County, Sagadahoc County, Somerset County, Waldo County, Washington County, York 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 Maine 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 SO₂ NAAQS. For additional information regarding designations under the SO₂ NAAQS, please visit our website at 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.

Sincerely,



Deborah A. Szaro
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Paul Mercer, Commissioner, Maine DEP
Marc Cone, Director, Bureau of Air Quality, Maine DEP

⁴ The enclosure is Chapter 17 of the Technical Support Document (TSD) for the designations EPA plans to complete by December 31, 2017 that addresses areas in Maine. The TSD is also available at www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations.