



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

August 22, 2017

The Honorable Phil Bryant
Governor of Mississippi
Post Office Box 139
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Governor Bryant:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's intended designations for all of the remaining areas in Mississippi 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 designations-related recommendations and information your state submitted in letters dated July 6, 2011, and January 10, 2017.¹

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 Mississippi, the following area was designated in these previous actions: Lamar County. 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 Mississippi. We are in agreement with your recommendation as explained below and in the referenced technical support document. We stand ready to assist or 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.

Mississippi has recommended a designation of unclassifiable/attainment for the areas indicated below. The EPA regulations for implementing the SO₂ NAAQS require Mississippi 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

¹ On June 24, 2016, December 15, 2016, and January 12, 2017, Mississippi 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>

modeling analyses provided by Mississippi or by a third party. Our review of this information indicates that it is consistent with your recommendation.

| Intended Unclassifiable/Attainment Area | Included Counties |
|--|--------------------------|
| Choctaw County, MS Area | Choctaw County |
| Jackson County, MS Area | Jackson County |

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

Finally, we intend to designate as unclassifiable/attainment all remaining areas of Mississippi 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.⁴ 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 by December 31, 2020, consistent with the prescribed timing of the court order. Upon completion of this designation action, there will be no remaining areas in Mississippi 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 <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: Gary Rikard, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)

Chad LaFontaine, Director
Office of Pollution Control, Air Division, MDEQ

³ See Chapter 21 of the Technical Support Document for the designations the EPA plans to complete by December 31, 2017, that addresses areas in Mississippi. The full Technical Support Document is available at <https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations/sulfur-dioxide-designations-regulatory-actions>.

⁴ The EPA's intended designated areas include all areas of Indian country.

Enclosure

List of all remaining areas of Mississippi 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. The EPA's intended designation concurs with the designation that Mississippi recommended.

| County |
|------------------|
| Adams County |
| Alcorn County |
| Amite County |
| Attala County |
| Benton County |
| Bolivar County |
| Calhoun County |
| Carroll County |
| Chickasaw County |
| Claiborne County |
| Clarke County |
| Clay County |
| Coahoma County |
| Copiah County |
| Covington County |
| DeSoto County |
| Forrest County |
| Franklin County |
| George County |
| Greene County |
| Grenada County |
| Hancock County |
| Harrison County |

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|------------------------|
| Hinds County |
| Holmes County |
| Humphreys County |
| Issaquena County |
| Itawamba County |
| Jasper County |
| Jefferson County |
| Jefferson Davis County |
| Jones County |
| Kemper County |
| Lafayette County |
| Lauderdale County |
| Lawrence County |
| Leake County |
| Lee County |
| Leflore County |
| Lincoln County |
| Lowndes County |
| Madison County |
| Marion County |
| Marshall County |
| Monroe County |
| Montgomery County |
| Neshoba County |
| Newton County |
| Noxubee County |
| Oktibbeha County |
| Panola County |
| Pearl River County |
| Perry County |

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|---------------------|
| Pike County |
| Pontotoc County |
| Prentiss County |
| Quitman County |
| Rankin County |
| Scott County |
| Sharkey County |
| Simpson County |
| Smith County |
| Stone County |
| Sunflower County |
| Tallahatchie County |
| Tate County |
| Tippah County |
| Tishomingo County |
| Tunica County |
| Union County |
| Walthall County |
| Warren County |
| Washington County |
| Wayne County |
| Webster County |
| Wilkinson County |
| Winston County |
| Yalobusha County |
| Yazoo County |