



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1
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BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

AUG 22 2017

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo
Office of the Governor
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196

Dear Governor Raimondo:

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 Rhode Island 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 your state submitted in a letter dated May 18, 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 Rhode Island were designated in these previous actions. Pursuant to a March 2, 2015 court-ordered schedule,¹ 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 state's recommended designation for Rhode Island. 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.

Rhode Island has recommended a designation of unclassifiable for the entire state. After carefully considering Rhode Island's recommendation and all available information, we intend to designate the entire state as unclassifiable/attainment as indicated below.² There are no areas in Rhode Island required to be characterized by modeling or monitoring, and EPA does not have information that suggests the

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

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

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 Rhode Island.³

| Unclassifiable/Attainment Area | Included Counties |
|--------------------------------|---|
| State of Rhode Island | Bristol County, Kent County, Newport County, Providence County, Washington 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 Rhode Island 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: Janet Coit, Director, RI DEM
Laurie Grandchamp, Acting Chief, Office of Air Resources, RI DEM

³ 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 Rhode Island. The TSD is also available at www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations.