



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

AUG 22 2017

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Terry Rambler
Chairperson
San Carlos Apache Tribe
Post Office Box O
San Carlos, Arizona 85550

Dear Chairperson Rambler:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) intended designation for the San Carlos Apache Tribe 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.

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. No portion of your tribe's lands was designated in these previous actions; however, we did designate the Miami SO₂ Planning Area and the Hayden SO₂ Planning Area, adjacent and to the east of your tribe's lands, within Gila County and Pinal County, Arizona. 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 the EPA's intended designation for all lands of the San Carlos Apache Tribe.

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 9. 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.

After carefully considering all available information, the EPA intends to designate all lands of the San Carlos Apache Tribe as unclassifiable/attainment. This unclassifiable/attainment designation would not trigger any planning requirements under the Clean Air Act. The EPA intends to designate the lands of the San Carlos Apache Tribe with the Gila County, Graham County, and Pinal County

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

unclassifiable/attainment areas in which the lands are geographically located. The enclosure to this letter provides the information that supports the intended designation decision for your tribe's lands.²

The EPA will promulgate the final designations for the areas identified in this letter by December 31, 2017. Upon the completion of this designation action, there will be no remaining areas in your tribe's lands to be designated.

We share your goal to provide cleaner air for members of your tribe. 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, or would like a briefing or to engage in consultation, please do not hesitate to call me, or have your staff contact Meredith Kurpius at (415) 947-4534 or kurpius.meredith@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



ds Alexis Strauss
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Loretta Stone, Director, San Carlos Apache Environmental Protection Agency

² The enclosure is Chapter 4 of our Technical Support Document for the EPA's intended designations that addresses Arizona and the lands of the San Carlos Apache Tribe. The full Technical Support Document is also available at <https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations>.