



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

The Honorable Kenneth E. Mapp
Governor of the Virgin Islands
Governor House
21-22 Kongens Gade
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

AUG 22 2017

Dear Governor Mapp:

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 the United States Virgin Islands 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 the United States Virgin Islands submitted in letters dated May 20, 2011, and March 15, 2012.¹

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. No areas in the United States Virgin Islands 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 the EPA's assessment of the Virgin Island's recommended designations for the territory. 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 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 2. 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.

The Virgin Islands has recommended a designation of attainment for St. John and Water Islands, and unclassifiable for St. Croix Island. After considering the Virgin Islands' recommendation and all available information, we intend to designate the entire territory as unclassifiable/attainment. There are no areas in the Virgin Islands required to be characterized by modeling or monitoring, and the EPA does

¹ The Virgin Islands also provided information relevant to these designations in a letter dated December 23, 2011.

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

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 Technical Support Document, available at <https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations>, provides the information that supports the intended designation.

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

We share your goal to provide cleaner air for citizens in your territory. 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 John Filippelli, Director of the Clean Air and Sustainability Division, of my staff at (212) 637-3736.

Sincerely,



Catherine R. McCabe
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: Dawn Henry, Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Planning & Natural Resources

Norman Williams, Director
Virgin Islands Department of Planning & Natural Resources