



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

AUG 22 2017

The Honorable James C. Justice II
Governor of West Virginia
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Governor Justice:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) proposed designations for certain areas in the State of West Virginia 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 proposed designations are a response to designations-related recommendations and information your State submitted in letters dated May 23, 2011, January 22, 2013, and April 5, 2013.¹

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. In West Virginia, the following areas were designated in these previous actions: Brooke County (partial) and Marshall County (partial). Pursuant to a March 2, 2015 court-ordered schedule,² EPA must complete the remaining SO₂ designations by two specific deadlines: December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2020. Pursuant to section 107(d)(1)(B)(ii) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), this letter is to notify you of EPA's assessment regarding West Virginia's recommended designations for all remaining undesignated areas in West Virginia. EPA will promulgate the final designations for the areas identified in this letter by December 31, 2017. Areas that are associated with sources for which West Virginia elected to install and begin operating a new SO₂ monitoring network will be designated by December 31, 2020, consistent with the prescribed timing of the consent order. In West Virginia, this applies to Mineral County.

After carefully considering West Virginia's recommendations and all available information, including any air dispersion modeling analysis and current (2014-2016) air monitoring data, EPA proposes to designate the following areas as indicated below. EPA regulations for implementing the SO₂ NAAQS require West Virginia to characterize SO₂ air quality in each of these listed areas. EPA proposes to designate each listed area as a separate unclassifiable or unclassifiable/attainment area, as indicated.

¹ West Virginia also provided information relevant to these designations in a letter dated January 12, 2017.

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

Proposed Unclassifiable Area or Partial Area (p)	Included County or Tax Districts
Wood*	Wood County
Mason (p)*	Lewis, Robinson, Waggener, Graham, and Cooper Tax Districts

Proposed Unclassifiable/Attainment Area or Partial Area (p)	Included County or Tax Districts
Grant*	Grant County
Harrison*	Harrison County
Mason (p)*	Hannah, Clendenin, Arbuckle, Cologne, and Union Tax Districts
Monongalia*	Monongalia County
Pleasants*	Pleasants County
Putnam*	Putnam County

An asterisk (*) indicates that EPA's proposed designation for this area represents a modification to the designation that you have most recently recommended.

The Technical Support Document for our proposed designations is available at <https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations>. Chapter 43 of the document addresses the State of West Virginia.

In addition, EPA proposes to designate as unclassifiable/attainment all remaining areas of West Virginia 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. A list of these remaining areas is included in the Enclosure.

If you or your staff have additional information that EPA should consider prior to finalizing these 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 III. 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 proposed designations.

Thank you for West Virginia's efforts throughout the designations process. We share your goal to provide cleaner air for citizens in West Virginia, and 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 Mark Ferrell of my staff at 304-542-0231 or Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Cecil Rodrigues
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable S. Austin Caperton III, Secretary
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection

Enclosure

List of all remaining areas of West Virginia 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. EPA proposes to designate each of these areas as a separate unclassifiable/attainment area.

Proposed Unclassifiable/Attainment Area or Partial Area (p)	Included County or Tax Districts
Barbour*	Barbour County
Berkeley*	Berkeley County
Boone*	Boone County
Braxton*	Braxton County
Brooke (p)*	Buffalo Tax District
Cabell*	Cabell County
Calhoun*	Calhoun County
Clay*	Clay County
Doddridge*	Doddridge County
Fayette*	Fayette County
Gilmer*	Gilmer County
Greenbrier*	Greenbrier County
Hampshire*	Hampshire County
Hancock*	Hancock County
Hardy*	Hardy County
Jackson*	Jackson County
Jefferson*	Jefferson County
Kanawha*	Kanawha County
Lewis*	Lewis County
Lincoln*	Lincoln County
Logan*	Logan County
Marion*	Marion County
Marshall (p)*	Cameron, Liberty, Meade, Sand Hill, Union, and Webster Tax Districts

McDowell*	McDowell County
Mercer*	Mercer County
Mingo*	Mingo County
Monroe*	Monroe County
Morgan*	Morgan County
Nicholas*	Nicholas County
Ohio*	Ohio County
Pendleton*	Pendleton County
Pocahontas*	Pocahontas County
Preston*	Preston County
Raleigh*	Raleigh County
Randolph*	Randolph County
Ritchie*	Ritchie County
Roane*	Roane County
Summers*	Summers County
Taylor*	Taylor County
Tucker*	Tucker County
Tyler*	Tyler County
Upshur*	Upshur County
Wayne*	Wayne County
Webster*	Webster County
Wetzel*	Wetzel County
Wirt*	Wirt County
Wyoming*	Wyoming County

An asterisk (*) indicates that the proposed designation for this county or portion of a county represents a modification to the designation that West Virginia has most recently recommended.