



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 1

**5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912**

December 20, 2017

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Office of the Governor
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903


Dear Governor Raimondo:

Thank you for your state recommendation dated September 27, 2016, on air quality designations for the revised 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone throughout Rhode Island. I appreciate the information you shared with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as we move forward to improve ozone air quality. This letter is to notify you of the EPA's preliminary response to Rhode Island's recommendations for ozone designations for Kent and Washington counties.

This letter supplements the enclosed letter dated November 6, 2017 from EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt in which the EPA designated all of Rhode Island Attainment/Unclassifiable for 2015 ozone NAAQS (our cleanest category) with the exception of Kent and Washington counties. At this time, EPA has preliminarily determined that ozone air quality in these two counties also meets the 2015 ozone standards based on 2014-2016 air quality data. Therefore, the EPA is proposing to extend the Attainment/Unclassifiable for 2015 ozone NAAQS to include these areas.

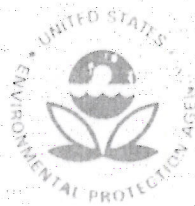
Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or have your staff contact David Conroy of my staff at 617-918-1661.

Sincerely,


Deborah A. Szaro
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure: Nov. 6, 2017 letter from Scott Pruitt

cc: Laurie Grandchamp, RI DEM



E. SCOTT PRUITT
ADMINISTRATOR

November 6, 2017

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Governor of Rhode Island
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Governor Raimondo:

I am writing to inform you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that air quality in part of Rhode Island meets the 2015 ground-level ozone standards, consistent with your recommendations for those areas. As such, we are designating these areas "attainment/unclassifiable." The enclosed table lists the portions of Rhode Island the agency is designating at this time. For the rest of Rhode Island, the EPA is not extending the time provided under section 107 of the Clean Air Act but is not yet prepared to issue designations. The agency intends to address these areas in a separate future action.

Improved air quality is a shared goal and together, we have made considerable progress to reduce ozone levels throughout the country. As a testament to cooperative federalism, monitored levels of ozone have dropped 22 percent since 1990. Increasingly important is the recognition of and improved understanding regarding external elements that can impact a state's ability to achieve compliance, including background ozone, international transport and exceptional events. The agency intends to give appropriate consideration to these and many other factors during our continued conversation and work with you and your state staff on the 2015 ozone standards. I appreciate the information already provided and look forward to continued engagement on this important issue.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me or your staff may contact Troy Lyons, Associate Administrator for the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at lyons.troy@epa.gov or at (202) 564-5200.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Scott Pruitt".

E. Scott Pruitt

Enclosure

Enclosure: Designated Areas for the 2015 Ozone Standards

Rhode Island	
Area	Designation
Bristol County	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Newport County	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Providence County	Attainment/Unclassifiable