



March 18, 2020

2019-2020 Status Update
c/o Rich Damberg, Mail Code C539-01
109 TW Alexander Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

Re: 2019-2020 South Carolina Status Update on Air Quality Strategies and
Accomplishments, Ozone and Particulate Matter Advance Programs

Dear Mr. Damberg:

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (Department) wishes to provide the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) this "2019-2020 Update" for both the Ozone and the Particulate Matter (PM) Advance Programs for the 2015/2016 Path Forward Plan. The Department has worked alongside South Carolina air quality stakeholders in multipollutant programs similar to the Advance Programs since 2001. By participating in the Ozone and PM Advance Programs, in partnership with the EPA and our stakeholders, we are pledging to continue our successful, proactive and voluntary efforts at reducing emissions of pollutants and improving our air quality in South Carolina.

The entire state of South Carolina has been a participant in the EPA's Ozone and Particulate Matter (PM) "Advance Programs" which is a collaborative effort between the Department, the EPA, and local governments since 2012. The program encourages the development and implementation of local voluntary actions to reduce ozone and particulate matter emissions in attainment areas. The program's intent is for local partners to take proactive steps to help areas of our State to continue to meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

To accomplish this, the Department and the EPA provide assistance for technically sound measures for local partners to implement to reduce emissions. These emission reductions ensure continued health protection, better position these areas to remain in attainment, and efficiently direct available resources toward actions to address ozone and PM problems quickly.

As part of this effort, the Department has assisted in the formation of local area Air Quality Coalitions for facilitating communication, particularly in areas of the State that could have challenges with air quality or one of the NAAQS. These coalitions are conduits for information between the Department, local communities, their industry partners, and the EPA, concerning both regulatory matters and opportunities such as grant programs. The

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coalitions can help communities to maintain and enhance quality of life and economic well-being by improving air quality through local action and being engaged in the regulatory process.

The Ozone and PM Advance Programs offer opportunities for state and local governments to work in partnership with the EPA and each other that can help focus participants' efforts to keep their air clean. Participating areas will work with the State to evaluate initiatives that are suitable for their area, select those that are effective and practical, and implement those control measures and programs. The State and the EPA can provide information about available tools and resources that may be used to help the area maintain air quality and provide technical advice and other support.

To date, air quality in our State continues to improve, and all areas currently meet the 2015 ozone standard and the 2012 PM standard. Participation in Department-sponsored programs has been enthusiastic. Local areas continue to work on local and Department initiatives, such as the B² anti-idling program for schools, in new directions. South Carolina air quality coalitions intend to stay ahead of the ever-tightening curve of air quality standards, and the Department will continue to provide tools and support toward that end. It has been, and will continue to be, our goal to protect the public's health by meeting the EPA's air quality standards.

The Department commits to its participation in the EPA's Ozone and PM Advance Programs and will continue to work with our air quality coalitions, industries, schools, local governments, and interested individuals on voluntary multipollutant reducing programs.

We look forward to your acknowledgement of receipt of this status update. If you have any questions, please contact Nelson Roberts at 803-898-4122 or robertln@dhec.sc.gov.

Sincerely,



Rhonda Banks Thompson, P.E.
Chief, Bureau of Air Quality

cc: Kelly Sheckler, U.S. EPA Region 4
Lisa Sutton, U. S. EPA OAQPS, Research Triangle Park

enclosure