



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
REGION 6  
1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

Office of the Regional Administrator

August 13, 2020

The Honorable John Bel Edwards  
Governor of Louisiana  
P.O. Box 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Edwards:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) intended designations for the remaining undesignated areas in Louisiana for the 2010 1-hour sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) primary national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS). In accordance with section 107(d)(1)(B)(ii) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), EPA is providing you with 120 days' notice before promulgating final designations for areas in Louisiana. The designations for this NAAQS are an important part of EPA's commitment to a clean, healthy environment.

EPA's intended designations are a response to, and in consideration of, the recommendations and designations-related information your state submitted in letters dated in May of 2011, September 18, 2015, November 17, 2015, and April 23, 2020.

In previous final actions, EPA issued designations for the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS for most areas of the country.<sup>1</sup> To meet the requirements of a March 2, 2015 schedule ordered by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, by December 31, 2020, EPA will sign for publication in the *Federal Register*, a notice promulgating designations for all remaining areas of the country.<sup>2</sup> We are referring to this final set of designations for the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS as "Round 4" designations. After EPA completes these Round 4 designations, there will be no remaining undesignated areas for the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS in the United States.

After carefully considering Louisiana's recommendations and all available information, particularly (but not limited to) the most recent (2017-2019) air monitoring data, EPA intends to designate the following areas in Louisiana as shown in the table below. The enclosure to this letter provides the technical information that supports EPA's intended designation decisions for these areas in Louisiana.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Most areas of the U.S. were previously designated in actions published on August 5, 2013 (78 FR 47191), July 12, 2016 (81 FR 45039), December 13, 2016 (81 FR 89870), December 21, 2017 (83 FR 1098) and March 28, 2018 (83 FR 14597). The EPA is not reopening these previous designation actions in this current Round 4 of designations under the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS, except where specifically discussed.

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

<sup>3</sup> Enclosure 1 includes *Chapter #1: Background and History* and *Chapter #2: Designations for Areas without Violating Monitors* of the Technical Support Document.

Areas	Included Counties	EPA's Intended Designation
East Baton Rouge	East Baton Rouge Parish	Attainment/Unclassifiable
St. Charles	St. Charles Parish	Attainment/Unclassifiable
St. James	St. James Parish	Attainment/Unclassifiable
West Baton Rouge	West Baton Rouge Parish	Attainment/Unclassifiable

EPA will publish a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing a 30-day public comment period for the interested parties to provide feedback on EPA's intended designations. States will have additional time beyond the public comment period to respond to public comments, if necessary, and/or provide additional information. If you or your staff have additional information that EPA should review and consider prior to promulgating final designations, please submit it as soon as possible but no later than October 16, 2020. You may submit additional information to EPA's public docket for these designations, Docket# EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0037, located at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Please also send an electronic copy to the EPA Region 6 staff member whose contact information I have included below.

Thank you for Louisiana's efforts to provide cleaner air for the citizens in your state. 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 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. For additional information regarding designations under the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> 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 Robert Imhoff at email: [Imhoff.Robert@epa.gov](mailto:Imhoff.Robert@epa.gov), or at (214) 665-7262.

Sincerely,



Ken McQueen  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure:  
TSD Chapters #1 and #2

cc: Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D., Secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
Bijan Sharafkani, Confidential Advisor, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality