



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

August 13, 2020

The Honorable J.B. Pritzker
Governor of Illinois
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) intended designation for the remaining undesignated area in Illinois for the 2010 1-hour sulfur dioxide (SO₂) 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 a final designation for an area in Illinois. 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 designation-related information your state submitted by letter dated April 28, 2020.

In previous final actions, EPA issued designations for the 2010 SO₂ NAAQS for most areas of the country.¹ 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.² We are referring to this final set of designations for the 2010 SO₂ NAAQS as "Round 4" designations. After EPA completes these Round 4 designations, there will be no remaining undesignated areas for the 2010 SO₂ NAAQS in the United States.

After carefully considering Illinois'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 area in Illinois as shown in the table below. The enclosure to this letter provides the technical information that supports EPA's intended designation decision for this area.³ Our intended action is consistent with your recommendation.

¹ 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 SO₂ NAAQS, except where specifically discussed.

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

³ Enclosure 1 includes *Chapter #1: Background and History* and *Chapter #2: Designations for Areas without Violating Monitors* of the Technical Support Document. The Technical Support Document is also available at <https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations>.

Area	Included Counties	EPA's Intended Designation
Macon County	Macon County	Attainment/Unclassifiable

EPA will publish a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing a 30-day public comment period for 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.

Thank you for Illinois'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 SO₂ NAAQS. For additional information regarding designations under the 2010 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 at 312-886-3000, or have your staff contact John Mooney, Acting Air Division Director, at mooney.john@epa.gov, or at 312-886-6043.

Sincerely,



Kurt A. Thiede
Regional Administrator

Enclosure: Technical Support Document, Chapter #1: Background and History and Chapter #2: Designations for Areas without Violating Monitors of the Technical Support Document

cc: John J. Kim, Director, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Julie Armitage, Air Bureau Chief, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency