



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

The Honorable Ralph Northam
Governor of Virginia
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Northam:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) intended designations for Virginia's remaining undesignated areas 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 final designations for areas in Virginia. 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 June 3, 2011, January 11, 2017, and April 24, 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 Virginia'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 Virginia as shown in the table below. The enclosures to this letter provide the technical information that supports EPA's intended designation decisions for these areas in Virginia.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. Enclosure 2 includes Chapter 9 of the Technical Support Document that addresses areas in Virginia. The Technical Support Document is also available at <https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations>.



Areas	Included Counties	EPA's Intended Designation
Giles County (partial)	Giles County (p)	Nonattainment
Rest of Giles County	Giles County (p)	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Alleghany County	Alleghany County/ City of Covington	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Botetourt County	Botetourt County	Attainment/Unclassifiable

(p) indicates portion of county

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. Please also send an electronic copy to the EPA Region III Air & Radiation Division Director at the email address below.

Thank you for Virginia'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, or have your staff contact Air & Radiation Division Director Cristina Fernandez, at fernandez.cristina@epa.gov, or at (215) 814-2178.

Sincerely,

Cosmo Servidio,
Regional Administrator,
Region III

Enclosures

cc: David K. Paylor, Director, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Michael Dowd, Director, Air and Renewable Energy Division