

Technical Support Document:

Chapter 7

Final Round 4 Area Designations for the 2010 1-Hour SO₂ Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard for North Carolina

Pursuant to section 107(d) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, we, or us) must designate areas as either “nonattainment,” “attainment,” or “unclassifiable” for the 2010 1-hour sulfur dioxide (SO₂) primary national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) (2010 SO₂ NAAQS). On or about August 13, 2020, EPA sent states our responses to certain designation recommendations for the 2010 SO₂ NAAQS. On August 21, 2020, EPA published a notice of availability (NOA) in the *Federal Register* (see 85 FR 51694), initiating a 30-day public comment period. The NOA and the technical support document (TSD) for EPA’s intended designations provided background on the relevant CAA definitions and the history of the designations for this NAAQS. The TSD for EPA’s intended designations also described North Carolina’s recommended designations and EPA’s assessment of the available information.

During the public comment period, EPA received comments from Sierra Club and Evergreen Packaging regarding the intended designations of the Haywood County, Beaverdam Township in North Carolina. These comments are addressed in the Response to Comments document associated with this final action. Additionally, on November 24, 2020, EPA published a final rule in the *Federal Register* approving North Carolina’s September 3, 2020, source-specific state implementation plan (SIP) for the Blue Ridge Paper Products (BRPP) facility (see 85 FR 74884). This action incorporated certain SO₂ emissions limits and associated monitoring, reporting and recordkeeping compliance parameters for BRPP into the North Carolina SIP.

Therefore, as described in EPA’s 120-day letter and the TSD for EPA’s intended Round 4 designations, EPA is finalizing a designation of attainment/unclassifiable for the Beaverdam Township area in Haywood County, North Carolina. This TSD does not repeat information contained in the TSD for EPA’s intended designations. Table 1 identifies EPA’s final Round 4 designations and the areas in North Carolina to which they apply, and Chapter 1 of this TSD for the final designations explains the definitions that EPA is applying in the final designations process.

Table 1. Summary of EPA’s Final Designations and the Designation Recommendations by North Carolina

Area/County	North Carolina Recommended Area Definition	North Carolina’s Recommended Designation	EPA’s Intended Designation	EPA’s Final Area Definition	EPA’s Final Designation
Haywood County	Beaverdam Township – Haywood County	Attainment/ Unclassifiable	Nonattainment	Same as State’s	Attainment/ Unclassifiable
Buncombe County*	Limestone Township – Buncombe County	Attainment	Attainment/ Unclassifiable	Same as State’s	Attainment/ Unclassifiable
Person County*	Cunningham Township – Person County	Attainment	Attainment/ Unclassifiable	Same as State’s	Attainment/ Unclassifiable

* EPA addresses this area in Chapter 2 with all other areas which EPA is designating “attainment/unclassifiable” or “unclassifiable.”

Areas that EPA previously designated in Round 1 (*see* 78 FR 47191), Round 2 (*see* 81 FR 45039 and 81 FR 89870), and Round 3 (*see* 83 FR 1098 and 83 FR 14597) are not affected by the designations in Round 4.