



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 REGION 5
 77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
 CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590
FEB 06 2013

The Honorable John Kasich
 Governor of Ohio
 Riffe Center, 30th Floor
 77 South High Street
 Columbus, Ohio 43215

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Dear Governor Kasich:

I am writing to inform you of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's response to the State of Ohio's air quality designation recommendations for the 2010 revision to the primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard for sulfur dioxide (SO₂). As you may know, the Clean Air Act requires EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. Reducing SO₂ emissions is an important part of EPA's commitment to a clean, healthy environment. Exposure to SO₂ can cause a range of adverse health effects, including difficulty breathing and increased asthma symptoms.

On June 3, 2010, EPA strengthened the health-based or "primary" standard for SO₂ by establishing a standard for 1-hour average SO₂ concentrations at a level of 75 parts per billion. The Clean Air Act requires EPA to complete the initial designations process within two years of promulgating a new or revised standard. If EPA has insufficient information to make these designations, EPA has the authority to extend the designation process by up to one year. On July 27, 2012, EPA announced that it had insufficient information to complete the designations for the 1-hour SO₂ standard within two years and extended the designations deadline to June 3, 2013.

At this time, EPA is proceeding with nonattainment designations for most areas where 2009-2011 monitoring data indicate violations of the 1-hour SO₂ standard. EPA intends to address the designations for all other areas in separate future actions. After carefully considering Ohio's recommendations and the associated technical information, including air quality data from 2009-2011, EPA intends to designate the following areas, including the following counties or portions of counties, as nonattainment for the 2010 SO₂ standard:

<u>Nonattainment Area</u>	<u>County</u>
Lake County	Lake County, OH
Muskingum River	Morgan County, OH (Center Township) Washington County, OH (Waterford Township)
Steubenville-Weirton, OH-WV	Jefferson County, OH (Cross Creek, Steubenville, Warren, and Wells Townships) Brooke County, WV
Wheeling, WV-OH*	Belmont County, OH* (Mead Township)

Marshall County, WV

Campbell County, KY-OH*

Clermont County, OH* (Pierce Township)
Campbell County, KY (Census tracts 533.01, 529,
531, 519.03, 519.01)

The asterisk (*) indicates the boundary for this intended nonattainment area represents a modification to the boundary that your staff recommended. The enclosed Technical Support Document provides a detailed analysis that supports these preliminary nonattainment area decisions.

With input from a diverse group of stakeholders, EPA has also developed a comprehensive strategy for implementing the 1-hour SO₂ standard that focuses resources on identifying and addressing unhealthy levels of SO₂. The strategy is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/airquality/sulfurdioxide/implement.html>. EPA will continue to work closely with our partners at the state, tribal, and local levels to ensure health-protective, commonsense implementation of the 1-hour SO₂ standard.

EPA will continue to work with the state regarding the appropriate boundaries for the areas in Ohio. If the state has additional information for EPA to consider, please submit it by April 8, 2013. We also will be publishing a Federal Register notice announcing a 30-day period for the public to provide input on EPA's preliminary nonattainment designation decisions. We intend to promulgate these designations for areas with monitored violations of the 2010 SO₂ standard by June 2013. We are not yet prepared to propose designations action or seek public comment on other areas.

We look forward to a continued dialogue with the state as we work to implement the 2010 primary SO₂ standard. For additional information regarding initial designations on the SO₂ standard, please visit www.epa.gov/so2designations. If you have any questions, please contact me at 312-886-3000, or your staff may contact George Czerniak, Director of EPA Region 5's Air and Radiation Division, at 312-353-2212 or czerniak.george@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Scott Nally
Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Robert Hodanbosi
Chief, Division of Air Pollution Control
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency