



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1  
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100  
BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

**JUL 3 1 2017**

Mr. Bob Kaliszewski, Deputy Commissioner  
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

RE: Exceptional event demonstration regarding exceedances of the 8-hour ozone NAAQS at East Hartford, Cornwall, Westport, and Abington monitoring locations

Dear Deputy Kaliszewski:

On May 23, 2017, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) submitted an exceptional event demonstration claiming that emissions from the 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire caused elevated ozone levels throughout Connecticut which exceeded the 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) at the Abington, Cornwall, East Hartford, and Westport monitoring stations on May 25 and 26, 2016. The ozone concentrations exceeded the 2015 Ozone NAAQS at all four of the monitoring locations, and in some cases exceeded the 1997 and 2008 Ozone NAAQS.

CT DEEP's exceptional event demonstration was submitted in accordance with the revised Exceptional Events Rule found in sections 50.14 and 51.930 of 40 CFR parts 50 and 51.<sup>1</sup> After careful consideration of the information provided, the EPA concurs, based on the weight of the evidence, that CT DEEP has made the demonstrations referred to in 40 CFR 50.14(a)(2), (b)(1) and (b)(4). In addition, CT DEEP has met the schedule and procedural requirements in section 50.14(c) with respect to the same information. The EPA has reviewed the documentation provided by CT DEEP to demonstrate that the exceedances identified in the submitted demonstration for the dates of May 25 and 26, 2016, at the Abington, Cornwall, East Hartford, and Westport monitoring stations meet the criteria for an exceptional event in the rule. The basis for our concurrence is set forth in the enclosed technical support document. The EPA will enter "concurrence flags" for these data into the EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) data repository.

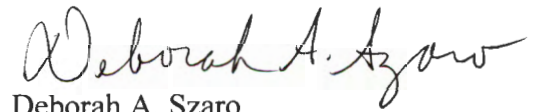
The EPA's concurrence is a preliminary step in the regulatory process for actions (such as designating nonattainment areas or issuing clean data determinations) that may rely on the dataset containing the event-influenced data and does not constitute final Agency action. If the EPA takes a regulatory action that is affected by exclusion of the ozone data for May 25 and 26, 2016 at the Abington, Cornwall, East Hartford or Westport monitoring stations, the EPA will publish notice of its proposed action in the Federal Register. The EPA's concurrence and accompanying technical support document will be included in the record as part of the technical basis for that proposal. When the EPA issues that regulatory action, it will be a final Agency action subject to judicial review.

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<sup>1</sup> See "Treatment of Data Influenced by Exceptional Events," 81 FR 68216 (October 3, 2016).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please don't hesitate to contact David Conroy at (617) 918-1661.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah A. Szaro". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Deborah A. Szaro  
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: Anne Gobin, Bureau of Air Management, CT DEEP