



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 – 2733

August 22, 2017

Office of the Regional Administrator

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of State of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) intended designations for certain areas in Texas for the 2010 Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for sulfur dioxide (SO₂). The designations for this NAAQS are an important part of the EPA's commitment to a clean, healthy environment. These intended designations are a response to designations-related recommendations and information your state submitted in letters dated June 2, 2011, April 20, 2012, September 18, 2015, and January 12, 2017.

On July 25, 2013, the EPA designated certain areas in 16 states as nonattainment, but did not at that time designate other areas. Additional areas were designated on June 30, 2016, and November 29, 2016. In Texas, the following areas were designated in these previous actions: Atascosa, Fort Bend, Goliad, Lamb, Limestone, McLennan, and Robertson Counties and portions of Anderson, Freestone, Panola, Rusk, and Titus Counties. Pursuant to a March 2, 2015, court-ordered schedule,¹ the agency must complete the remaining SO₂ designations by two specific deadlines: December 31, 2017, and December 31, 2020. Accordingly, pursuant to section 107(d)(1)(B)(ii) of the Clean Air Act, this letter is to notify you of the EPA's assessment of your state's recommended designations for all remaining undesignated areas in Texas except areas that are associated with sources for which Texas elected to install and begin operating a new SO₂ monitoring network. While we are in agreement with your recommendation for many of these areas, some areas warrant further discussion as explained below and in the accompanying technical support document. We stand ready to assist and hope to resolve any differences regarding the proper designation for these areas within this 120-day period provided by the Clean Air Act.

To this end, if you or your staff have additional information that the EPA should consider prior to finalizing the designations, please submit it as soon as possible but no later than October 23, 2017. You may submit additional information by sending it to the EPA's public docket for these designations, EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0003, located at www.regulations.gov, and sending a copy to EPA Region 6. The EPA also will publish a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing a 30-day comment period for the public to provide input on the EPA's intended designations.

The State of Texas has recommended a designation of unclassifiable/attainment and submitted air dispersion modeling demonstrating attainment for the area indicated below. EPA regulations for implementing the SO₂ NAAQS require Texas to characterize SO₂ air quality in each listed area. In

¹ *Sierra Club v. McCarthy*, No. 3-13-cv-3953 (SI) (N.D. Cal. Mar. 2, 2015).

considering your recommendation, we have taken into account all available information, including any current (2014-2016) air monitoring data, and the air dispersion modeling analyses provided by Texas or by a third party. Our review of this information indicates that it is consistent with your recommendation. The EPA intends to designate each listed area as a separate unclassifiable/attainment area as indicated.

Unclassifiable/Attainment Area	Included Counties
Wilbarger County	Wilbarger County

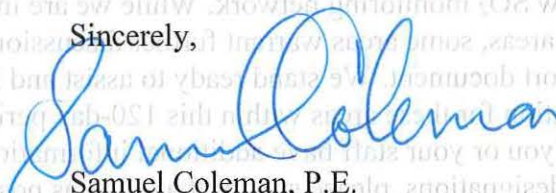
Enclosure 1 to this letter provides the information that supports the intended designation decisions for these areas in Texas.²

Finally, we intend to designate as unclassifiable/attainment all remaining areas of Texas that were not required to be characterized and for which EPA does not have information that suggests the area may not be meeting the NAAQS or contributing to air quality in a nearby area that does not meet the NAAQS. A list of these remaining areas is included in Enclosure 2.

The EPA will promulgate the final designations for the areas identified in this letter by December 31, 2017. We are prepared to work with you to resolve any disagreements with respect to the available information or information gaps. We are then required to designate all other remaining undesignated areas in Texas (Bexar, Harrison, Howard, Hutchinson, Jefferson, Milam, Navarro, Orange, and Potter Counties) by December 31, 2020, consistent with the prescribed timing of the court order.

We share your goal to provide cleaner air for 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 primary SO₂ NAAQS. For additional information regarding designations under the 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 Dayana Medina of my staff at telephone: (214) 665-7241, email: medina.dayana@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Samuel Coleman, P.E.
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosures

cc: Richard A. Hyde, P.E., Executive Director, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Steve Hagle, P.E., Deputy Director, Office of Air, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

² Enclosure 1 is Chapter 39 of the Technical Support Document for the designations EPA plans to complete by December 31, 2017, that addresses areas in Texas. The Technical Support Document is also available at <https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations>

Enclosure 2

List of all remaining areas of Texas that were not required to be characterized and for which the EPA does not have information that suggests the area may not be meeting the NAAQS or contributing to air quality in a nearby area that does not meet the NAAQS. The EPA intends to designate each of these areas as a separate unclassifiable/attainment area.

County or Partial County (p)	Included Area, If Partial County
Anderson County (p)	Outside UTM coordinates X Y 766752.69, 3536333.0 784752.69, 3536333.0 784752.69, 3512333.0 766752.69, 3512333.0 (NAD 83 Datum, UTM Zone 14)
Andrews County	Andrews County
Angelina County	Angelina County
Aransas County	Aransas County
Archer County	Archer County
Armstrong County	Armstrong County
Austin County	Austin County
Bailey County	Bailey County
Bandera County	Bandera County
Bastrop County	Bastrop County
Baylor County	Baylor County
Bee County	Bee County
Bell County	Bell County
Blanco County	Blanco County
Borden County	Borden County
Bosque County	Bosque County
Bowie County	Bowie County
Brazoria County	Brazoria County
Brazos County	Brazos County

Brewster County	Brewster County
Briscoe County	Briscoe County
Brooks County	Brooks County
Brown County	Brown County
Burleson County	Burleson County
Burnet County	Burnet County
Caldwell County	Caldwell County
Calhoun County	Calhoun County
Callahan County	Callahan County
Cameron County	Cameron County
Camp County	Camp County
Carson County	Carson County
Cass County	Cass County
Castro County	Castro County
Chambers County	Chambers County
Cherokee County	Cherokee County
Childress County	Childress County
Clay County	Clay County
Cochran County	Cochran County
Coke County	Coke County
Coleman County	Coleman County
Collin County	Collin County
Collingsworth County	Collingsworth County
Colorado County	Colorado County
Comal County	Comal County
Comanche County	Comanche County
Concho County	Concho County
Cooke County	Cooke County
Coryell County	Coryell County
Cottle County	Cottle County

Crane County	Crane County
Crockett County	Crockett County
Crosby County	Crosby County
Culberson County	Culberson County
Dallam County	Dallam County
Dallas County	Dallas County
Dawson County	Dawson County
DeWitt County	DeWitt County
Deaf Smith County	Deaf Smith County
Delta County	Delta County
Denton County	Denton County
Dickens County	Dickens County
Dimmit County	Dimmit County
Donley County	Donley County
Duval County	Duval County
Eastland County	Eastland County
Ector County	Ector County
Edwards County	Edwards County
El Paso County	El Paso County
Ellis County	Ellis County
Erath County	Erath County
Falls County	Falls County
Fannin County	Fannin County
Fayette County	Fayette County
Fisher County	Fisher County
Floyd County	Floyd County
Foard County	Foard County
Franklin County	Franklin County
Freestone County (p)	Outside UTM coordinates X Y 766752.69, 3536333.0

	784752.69, 3536333.0 784752.69, 3512333.0 766752.69, 3512333.0 (NAD 83 Datum, UTM Zone 14)
Frio County	Frio County
Gaines County	Gaines County
Galveston County	Galveston County
Garza County	Garza County
Gillespie County	Gillespie County
Glasscock County	Glasscock County
Gonzales County	Gonzales County
Gray County	Gray County
Grayson County	Grayson County
Gregg County	Gregg County
Grimes County	Grimes County
Guadalupe County	Guadalupe County
Hale County	Hale County
Hall County	Hall County
Hamilton County	Hamilton County
Hansford County	Hansford County
Hardeman County	Hardeman County
Hardin County	Hardin County
Harris County	Harris County
Hartley County	Hartley County
Haskell County	Haskell County
Hays County	Hays County
Hemphill County	Hemphill County
Henderson County	Henderson County
Hidalgo County	Hidalgo County
Hill County	Hill County

Hockley County	Hockley County
Hood County	Hood County
Hopkins County	Hopkins County
Houston County	Houston County
Hudspeth County	Hudspeth County
Hunt County	Hunt County
Irion County	Irion County
Jack County	Jack County
Jackson County	Jackson County
Jasper County	Jasper County
Jeff Davis County	Jeff Davis County
Jim Hogg County	Jim Hogg County
Jim Wells County	Jim Wells County
Johnson County	Johnson County
Jones County	Jones County
Karnes County	Karnes County
Kaufman County	Kaufman County
Kendall County	Kendall County
Kenedy County	Kenedy County
Kent County	Kent County
Kerr County	Kerr County
Kimble County	Kimble County
King County	King County
Kinney County	Kinney County
Kleberg County	Kleberg County
Knox County	Knox County
La Salle County	La Salle County
Lamar County	Lamar County
Lampasas County	Lampasas County
Lavaca County	Lavaca County

Lee County	Lee County
Leon County	Leon County
Liberty County	Liberty County
Lipscomb County	Lipscomb County
Live Oak County	Live Oak County
Llano County	Llano County
Loving County	Loving County
Lubbock County	Lubbock County
Lynn County	Lynn County
Madison County	Madison County
Marion County	Marion County
Martin County	Martin County
Mason County	Mason County
Matagorda County	Matagorda County
Maverick County	Maverick County
McCulloch County	McCulloch County
McMullen County	McMullen County
Medina County	Medina County
Menard County	Menard County
Midland County	Midland County
Mills County	Mills County
Mitchell County	Mitchell County
Montague County	Montague County
Montgomery County	Montgomery County
Moore County	Moore County
Morris County	Morris County
Motley County	Motley County
Nacogdoches County	Nacogdoches County
Newton County	Newton County
Nolan County	Nolan County

Nueces County	Nueces County
Ochiltree County	Ochiltree County
Oldham County	Oldham County
Palo Pinto County	Palo Pinto County
Panola County (p)	Outside UTM coordinates X Y 340067.31, 3575814.75 356767.31, 3575814.75 356767.31, 3564314.75 340067.31, 3564314.75 (NAD83 Datum, Zone 15)
Parker County	Parker County
Parmer County	Parmer County
Pecos County	Pecos County
Polk County	Polk County
Presidio County	Presidio County
Rains County	Rains County
Randall County	Randall County
Reagan County	Reagan County
Real County	Real County
Red River County	Red River County
Reeves County	Reeves County
Refugio County	Refugio County
Roberts County	Roberts County
Rockwall County	Rockwall County
Runnels County	Runnels County
Rusk County	Rusk County (p) outside UTM coordinates X Y 340067.31, 3575814.75 356767.31, 3575814.75 356767.31, 3564314.75 340067.31, 3564314.75 (NAD83 Datum, Zone 15)
Sabine County	Sabine County

San Augustine County	San Augustine County
San Jacinto County	San Jacinto County
San Patricio County	San Patricio County
San Saba County	San Saba County
Schleicher County	Schleicher County
Scurry County	Scurry County
Shackelford County	Shackelford County
Shelby County	Shelby County
Sherman County	Sherman County
Smith County	Smith County
Somervell County	Somervell County
Starr County	Starr County
Stephens County	Stephens County
Sterling County	Sterling County
Stonewall County	Stonewall County
Sutton County	Sutton County
Swisher County	Swisher County
Tarrant County	Tarrant County
Taylor County	Taylor County
Terrell County	Terrell County
Terry County	Terry County
Throckmorton County	Throckmorton County
Titus County (p)	Outside UTM coordinates X Y 304329.03, 3666971.0 311629.03, 3666971.0 311629.03, 3661870.5 304329.03, 3661870.5 (NAD83 Datum, Zone 15)
Tom Green County	Tom Green County
Travis County	Travis County
Trinity County	Trinity County

Tyler County	Tyler County
Upshur County	Upshur County
Upton County	Upton County
Uvalde County	Uvalde County
Val Verde County	Val Verde County
Van Zandt County	Van Zandt County
Victoria County	Victoria County
Walker County	Walker County
Waller County	Waller County
Ward County	Ward County
Washington County	Washington County
Webb County	Webb County
Wharton County	Wharton County
Wheeler County	Wheeler County
Wichita County	Wichita County
Willacy County	Willacy County
Williamson County	Williamson County
Wilson County	Wilson County
Winkler County	Winkler County
Wise County	Wise County
Wood County	Wood County
Yoakum County	Yoakum County
Young County	Young County
Zapata County	Zapata County
Zavala County	Zavala County

(p) Partial, portion of county noted with UTM coordinates was designated during Round 2 of the SO₂ designations.