



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

FEB 06 2013

The Honorable Jack Markell
Governor of Delaware
William Penn Street, 2nd Floor
Dover, Delaware 19901

Dear Governor Markell:

Thank you for your recommendations on air quality designations for the State of Delaware for the 2010 revision to the primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard for sulfur dioxide (SO₂). Reducing levels of sulfur dioxide pollution is an important part of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) commitment to a clean, healthy environment. Exposure to SO₂ can cause a range of adverse health effects, including narrowing of the airways which can cause difficulty breathing and increased asthma symptoms. This letter is to notify you of EPA's preliminary intentions regarding your recommended designations.

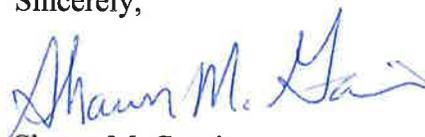
On June 3, 2010, EPA strengthened the health-based or "primary" standard for SO₂ by establishing a standard for 1-hour average SO₂ concentrations at a level of 75 parts per billion. The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to complete the initial designations process within two years of promulgating a new or revised standard. If EPA has insufficient information to make these designations, the Agency has the authority to extend the designation process by up to one year. On July 27, 2012, the 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 designating nonattainment areas in locations where existing monitoring data from 2009-2011 indicate violations of the 1-hour SO₂ standard. EPA intends to address the designations for all other areas in separate future actions. With input from a diverse group of stakeholders, EPA has developed a comprehensive implementation strategy for these future actions that focuses resources on identifying and addressing unhealthy levels of SO₂. The strategy is available at www.epa.gov/airquality/sulfurdioxide/implement.html. EPA will continue to work closely with you and our other state, tribal, and local partners to ensure health-protective, commonsense implementation of the 1-hour SO₂ standard.

EPA's review of the most recent monitored air quality data from 2009-2011 shows no violations of the 2010 SO₂ standard in any areas in the State of Delaware. Consequently, EPA is not yet prepared to propose designation action in the State of Delaware, and is therefore currently deferring action to designate areas in the State of Delaware. EPA expects to be able to proceed with designation action in the State of Delaware once additional data are gathered pursuant to our comprehensive implementation strategy. In a separate future action or actions EPA will notify you of our intended designations for these areas, and seek public comment on these actions, no later than 120 days prior to promulgating any final designations.

EPA looks forward to a continued dialogue with you and your staff as we work together to implement the 2010 primary SO₂ standard. For additional information regarding initial designations on the SO₂ standard, please visit our website at www.epa.gov/so2designations. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Ms. Amie Howell, EPA's Delaware Liaison, at (215) 814-5722.

Sincerely,



Shawn M. Garvin
Regional Administrator

cc: The Honorable Collin P. O'Mara, Secretary
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control