



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JAN 23 2012

The Honorable John P. de Jongh, Jr.
Office of the Governor
Government House
21-22 Kongens Gade
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Dear Governor de Jongh:

Thank you for your December 23, 2011 letter revising the May 20, 2011 recommendation to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that the islands of St. Thomas, St. John and Water Island be designated as attaining the EPA's health based National Ambient Air Quality Standard for sulfur dioxide, and St. Croix be designated as non-attainment. Your December 23, 2011 letter indicates that it is likely the U.S. Virgin Islands will propose to designate St. Croix as attaining NAAQS based on your in-depth technical review and updated data.

The EPA can use the most updated sulfur dioxide data in making sulfur dioxide designations. In order for the Agency to base the sulfur dioxide designation on levels measured between 2009 and 2011, the Virgin Islands has to make the request to EPA. While we understand the status of HOVENSA on the island is unclear the data has to be certified by HOVENSA as the entity responsible for submitting the data. Based on the EPA's review of your preliminary data measured from 2009 through November 2011, it appears that the data meets the EPA's air quality standards for sulfur dioxide.

As we discussed during our December 12, 2011 meeting in New York, the EPA's sulfur dioxide designation guidance specifies that an area can only be designated as attaining the standard if air quality monitors do not measure any violations and if an acceptable dispersion modeling analysis demonstrates that no violations are predicted to occur in that area. Without a modeling demonstration, the EPA intends to designate areas as unclassifiable, unless the areas have measured violations of the sulfur dioxide standard. In those cases, the areas would be designated as not attaining the Agency's standards.

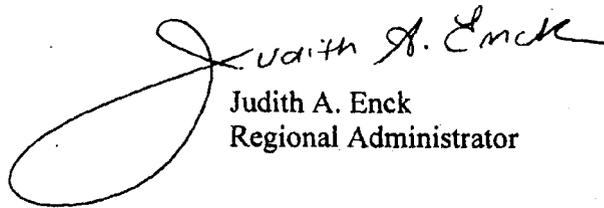
The EPA will soon be sending letters to all governors announcing proposed sulfur dioxide designations for the entire country. You will have another opportunity to respond to EPA's proposed designations and submit additional information to support your designation recommendations, including the most recent certified air quality data. The EPA intends to finalize the sulfur dioxide designations by June 3, 2012.

In your December 23, 2011 letter, you also request the Agency's opinion on whether air quality measurements from the Alcoa 1 air monitoring station should be considered in determining St. Croix's

attainment status. The EPA's position is that data from the Alcoa 1 air monitor is representative of the ambient air quality in the communities of St. Croix and air quality measurements collected at the Alcoa 1 monitor should be considered in designating the area. The Alcoa 1 monitoring site was located slightly within the fence line of the industrial complex for security reasons. At the time of the monitor's placement, EPA, the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources and Hess Oil (the former owner of the property) agreed that data from the monitor would still be representative of the air quality in the community and could be used to determine both the surrounding area's compliance with the sulfur dioxide standard as well as HOVENSA's compliance with related permit provisions. The EPA intends to establish sulfur dioxide designations using data from all five monitoring stations on St. Croix.

Thank you again for providing us with information about your anticipated recommendation for the designation of areas attaining the NAAQS. If you have any questions about the EPA's review of the U.S. Virgin Islands' request, please contact me at (212) 637-5000 or have your staff contact Mr. Raymond Werner, our Air Programs Branch Chief, at (212) 637-3706.

Sincerely,



Judith A. Enck
Regional Administrator