



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH  
DIRECTOR

April 18, 2016

Mr. George Czerniak  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Mail Code: AR-18J  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3507

Dear Mr. Czerniak:

This letter is in response to the February 16, 2016, letter from Acting Regional Administrator Robert Kaplan to Governor Rick Snyder concerning air quality designations. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is writing to provide additional information regarding our recommended sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) designations for areas impacted by coal-fired electric-generating facilities in the state. Please be advised that Consumers Energy's Weadock and Whiting facilities, in Bay County and Monroe County respectively, have permanently discontinued operations. Therefore, we are requesting that both counties be designated as unclassified/attainment for the SO<sub>2</sub> 1-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard rather than unclassified, as suggested in the above letter.

In this letter, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) stated that both counties could not be designated attainment (unclassified/attainment) as we had requested in our designation recommendation letter dated September 18, 2015, until the Weadock and Whiting facilities were shut down. Based on federal consent orders for the two facilities, shut-down was scheduled to occur by April 15, 2016. That requirement has now been satisfied and confirmed by our staff. Your letter further states that if these facilities meet this deadline, the USEPA can designate the counties as unclassified/attainment.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Robert Irvine, MDEQ, at 517-284-6749; [irviner@michigan.gov](mailto:irviner@michigan.gov); MDEQ, P.O. Box 30260, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7760 or you may contact me.

Sincerely,

Lynn Fiedler, Chief  
Air Quality Division  
517-284-6773

cc: Mr. John Mooney, USEPA  
Mr. Keith Creagh, Director, MDEQ  
Mr. Jim Sygo, Chief Deputy Director, MDEQ  
Ms. Teresa Seidel, MDEQ  
Ms. Barb Rosenbaum, MDEQ  
Mr. Robert Irvine, MDEQ