



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

AIR AND RADIATION DIVISION
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JUN 05 2019

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Bob Hodanbosi, Director
Department of Air Pollution Control
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Lazarus Government Center
50 West Town Street, Suite 700
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Mr. Hodanbosi:

On April 23, 2019, the State of Ohio submitted a redesignation request and maintenance plan for the 2015 8-hour ozone Columbus nonattainment area. This plan included Mobile Vehicle Emissions Budgets (MVEBs) for volatile organic compounds (VOC) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) for the years 2023 and 2030. Pursuant to Section 93.118(e)(4) of the Transportation Conformity Rule (40 C.F.R. Part 93, Subpart A), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the MVEBs for adequacy.

The conformity rule spells out limited technical and administrative criteria that are used to determine adequacy of submitted MVEBs for transportation conformity purposes. We have determined that the MVEBs for the Columbus nonattainment area are adequate. A comment period on the MVEBs adequacy was held, via a posting to EPA's web site, from May 2, 2019 through June 1, 2019. No comments were received. This adequacy finding means that the submitted MVEBs for VOC and NO_x for the 2015 8-hour ozone Columbus nonattainment area can be used to determine conformity for a transportation improvement program or long-range transportation plan.

Please note that this adequacy finding does not relate to the merits of the maintenance plan State Implementation Plan submittal, nor does it indicate whether the submittal meets the requirements for approval. It is completely separate from EPA's subsequent rulemaking action on the redesignation request and associated maintenance plan submittal, and should not be used to prejudge EPA's approval or disapproval of that submittal.

EPA will announce the adequacy determination in the Federal Register. The adequacy determination will become effective 15 days after publication. If you have any questions, please contact Anthony Maietta, of my staff, at 312-353-8777.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Mooney for JM". The signature is written in a cursive style.

John Mooney
Chief
Air Programs Branch