STATE OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Wes Moore

Friday, January 17, 2025

Adam Ortiz
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 3
1600 John F. Kennedy Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19103

RE: Submission of initial designations for the revised PM2.5 primary annual standard

Dear Administrator Ortiz,

On February 7, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed more stringent National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for annual Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5), and on March 6, 2024, that ruling went into effect. The primary annual PM2.5 standard was lowered from 12.0 µg/m3 to 9.0 µg/m3. All other PM standards (24-hour PM2.5 standard, 24-hour PM10 standard, and suite of secondary PM standards) were retained. After the promulgation of a new standard, Section 107(d) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) requires that EPA and states follow a standard procedure in order to designate every area within the country in relation to the new standard. After EPA's promulgation of a NAAQS, states are required to submit their recommendations of designations in their state no later than 1 year after the ruling.

Attachment 1 provides historical and current design values for every county in Maryland, using certified air quality data that meet the applicable regulatory requirements. Initial designations will be based on 2023 design values, which are made

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up of air quality data from 2021, 2022, and 2023. As demonstrated in the attachment, there are no counties in Maryland that violate the 2024 PM2.5 standard. All monitors with certified data in the state have 2021-2023 design values well below the standard of 9.0 µg/m3, even when including monitoring data from days affected by wildfires in 2023. Based on these monitoring data, Maryland is recommending that the entire state be designated “attainment”/“unclassifiable.” Attachment 2 contains Maryland’s recommended designations for each county with respect to the 2024 annual PM2.5 standard.

Thank you for your attention to this request. If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please contact Secretary of the Environment Serena McIlwain, at (410) 537-3893 or MDE.Secretary@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Wes Moore
Governor of Maryland

Enclosures
cc: Serena C. McIlwain, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment
Chris Hoagland, Air and Radiation Administration Director