



Pennsylvania  
**Department of  
Environmental Protection**

April 15, 2025

Ms. Catherine Libertz  
Acting Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3  
Four Penn Center  
1600 John F. Kennedy Blvd.  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Dear Ms. Libertz:

Pursuant to Section 107 of the Clean Air Act (CAA)(42 U.S.C. § 7407), enclosed are the Commonwealth's designation recommendations pertinent to the revised primary annual National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

On February 7, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) strengthened the primary annual 2024 PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard from 12 µg/m<sup>3</sup> to 9.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (9 FR 16202; March 06, 2024). EPA did not make changes to other particulate matter air quality standards that include the primary 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard, the primary 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> standard, and the secondary PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> standards.

The Commonwealth determined the recommended geographical boundaries for annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> "attainment," "nonattainment" and "unclassifiable/attainment" areas in accordance with EPA's February 7, 2024, guidance entitled, "Initial Area Designations for the 2024 Revised Primary Annual Fine Particle National Ambient Air Quality Standard."

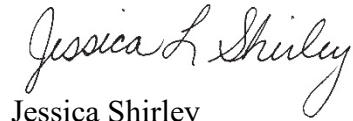
Prior to finalizing the designation recommendations, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP or Department) provided public notice and a public comment period on the proposed designation recommendations. *See* 54 Pa. B. 8350 (December 21, 2024). Proof of public participation and a Comment/Response document addressing the public comments received is also enclosed.

The Department understands that EPA will provide notice of any modifications to the Commonwealth's recommendations at least 120 days prior to issuing final designations. The Department will comment on any proposed modifications to our recommendations, as appropriate and as authorized under Section 107 of the CAA. We look forward to collaborating with your staff during the development of the final revised primary annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> designations for this Commonwealth.

Thank you in advance for the expeditious processing of DEP's SIP revision and redesignation request. Should you have questions or need additional information, please contact Nick Lazor, Director, Bureau of Air Quality, by e-mail at [nlazor@pa.gov](mailto:nlazor@pa.gov) or by telephone at (717) 772-3952.

The documents, including a signed copy of the transmittal letter, have been submitted to the EPA electronically through the EPA central data exchange (cdx) web portal, *State Planning electronic Collaboration System* (SPeCS) for SIPs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jessica L. Shirley".

Jessica Shirley  
Acting Secretary

Enclosure(s)

cc: Ms. Cristina Fernandez, EPA Region 3  
Mr. Nick Lazor