UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 30 2016

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Mike Pence
Governor of Indiana
State Capitol
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2797

Dear Governor Pence:

I am writing to summarize the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's recent decisions relating to sulfur dioxide (SO_2) air quality in your state. As required by section 107(d) of the Clean Air Act, the EPA is moving forward to determine which areas are meeting the 2010 1-hour health-based national ambient air quality standard for SO_2, which areas must take steps to reduce SO_2 pollution, and which areas we are presently unable to make a determination for based on available information. Exposure to SO_2 can cause a range of adverse health effects, including narrowing of the airways which can cause difficulty breathing and increased asthma symptoms.

On June 3, 2010, the EPA strengthened the health-based or "primary" standard for SO_2 by establishing a 1-hour standard at a level of 75 parts per billion. On July 25, 2013, the EPA designated 29 areas in 16 states as nonattainment, but did not at that time designate other areas. Pursuant to a March 2, 2015, court-ordered schedule[3], the agency must complete the remaining SO_2 designations by three specific deadlines: July 2, 2016, December 31, 2017, and December 31, 2020.

To meet the first of these deadlines, the EPA is designating areas "nonattainment", "unclassifiable/attainment", or "unclassifiable" after evaluating:

1. newly monitored violations of the 2010 SO_2 standard based on the most recent 3 calendar years of certified air monitoring data, and
2. areas that contain any stationary source that had not been announced, as of March 2, 2015, for retirement and that according to the EPA's Air Markets Database emitted in 2012 either (i) more than 16,000 tons of SO_2 or (ii) more than 2,600 tons of SO_2 with an annual average emission rate of at least 0.45 pounds of SO_2/mmBTU.

After reviewing all available data and information for this round of designations, I am pleased to inform you that the EPA is designating parts of your state that meet the 2010 primary SO_2 standard as "unclassifiable/attainment." States should work to maintain SO_2 air quality that meets the EPA's health-base standard in unclassifiable/attainment areas.

[3] *Sierra Club v. McCarthy*, No. 3-13-cv-3953 (SI) (N.D. Cal. Mar. 2, 2015).

The enclosed table lists the areas within Indiana that the EPA is designating during this round of designations. A detailed explanation of the EPA's rationale for these designations is available in the Technical Support Document (TSD) for each area in your state. The TSDs are available on the web at: *https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations/epa-completes-second-round-sulfur-dioxide-designations/*. In addition, the docket contains a Response to Comments document that responds to general and in many cases area-specific comments raised in response to the EPA's notice of availability published in March 2016 and the letters informing you and other Governors of the EPA's intended designations sent in February 2016. These final designations will take effect 60 days after the notice I signed today is published in the *Federal Register*.

As provided in the EPA's SO_2 Data Requirements Rule, the EPA will designate all remaining areas by either December 31, 2017, or December 31, 2020. We expect that additional information collected as a result of the SO_2 Data Requirements Rule will inform these future actions. Our approach focuses resources on identifying and addressing unhealthy levels of SO_2 in areas where people are most likely to be exposed to violations of the standard.

Thank you for your work to improve air quality and protect public health. We look forward to continued work with you and your staff to implement the 2010 health-based SO_2 standard. For additional information regarding these designations, please visit our website at *https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations/*.

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact me or your staff may call Mark Rupp, Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations, at rupp.mark@epa.gov or at (202) 564-7178.

Sincerely,

Gina McCarthy

Enclosure

Enclosure – Final Area Designations: July 2, 2016

Indiana

Area Name	Source	County Name	Designation
Gibson County, IN	Gibson Generating Station	Gibson	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Jefferson County, IN	Clifty Creek Power Plant	Jefferson (p)	Unclassifiable/Attainment
LaPorte County, IN	Michigan City Generating Station	LaPorte	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Posey County, IN	AB Brown Generating Station	Posey (p)	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Spencer County, IN	Rockport Power Plant/Rockport Generating Station	Spencer (p)	Unclassifiable/Attainment

(p) – partial county

Consistent with the final consent decree schedule, designations for the rest of the state will be addressed by either December 31, 2017, or December 31, 2020.