



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

JUN 30 2016

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable John Kasich
Governor of Ohio
State Capitol
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor Kasich:

I am writing to summarize the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's recent decisions relating to sulfur dioxide (SO₂) 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 SO₂, which areas must take steps to reduce SO₂ pollution, and which areas we are presently unable to make a determination for based on available information. Exposure to SO₂ 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 SO₂ 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 schedule⁷, the agency must complete the remaining SO₂ 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 SO₂ 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 SO₂ or (ii) more than 2,600 tons of SO₂ with an annual average emission rate of at least 0.45 pounds of SO₂/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 SO₂ standard as "unclassifiable/attainment." States should work to maintain SO₂ air quality that meets the EPA's health-base standard in unclassifiable/attainment areas.

⁷ *Sierra Club v. McCarthy*, No. 3-13-cv-3953 (SI) (N.D. Cal. Mar. 2, 2015).