



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 7**

11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

FEB 06 2013

The Honorable Jay Nixon
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Governor Nixon:

On July 19, 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency received recommendations from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources on air quality designations for the state of Missouri for the 2010 revision to the primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard for sulfur dioxide (SO₂). Reducing levels of sulfur dioxide pollution is an important part of the EPA's commitment to a clean, healthy environment. 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. This letter is to notify you of the EPA's preliminary intentions regarding your recommended designations.

On June 3, 2010, the EPA strengthened the health-based or "primary" standard for SO₂ by establishing a standard for 1-hour average SO₂ concentrations at a level of 75 parts per billion. The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to complete the initial designations process within two years of promulgating a new or revised standard. If the Administrator has insufficient information to make these designations, the EPA has the authority to extend the designation process by up to one year. On July 27, 2012, the EPA announced that it had insufficient information to complete the designations for the 1-hour SO₂ standard within two years and extended the designations deadline to June 3, 2013.

At this time the EPA is proceeding with designating as nonattainment most areas in locations where existing monitoring data from 2009-2011 indicate violations of the 1-hour SO₂ standard. The EPA intends to address the designations for all other areas in separate future actions. With input from a diverse group of stakeholders, EPA has developed a comprehensive implementation strategy for these future actions that focuses resources on identifying and addressing unhealthy levels of SO₂. The strategy is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/airquality/sulfurdioxide/implement.html>. The EPA will continue to work closely with you and our other partners at the state, tribal and local levels to ensure health-protective, commonsense implementation of the 1-hour SO₂ standard.

Consistent with the Clean Air Act, after carefully considering Missouri's recommendations and all of the associated technical information for the 2010 SO₂ standard, the EPA intends to designate as nonattainment the following areas, including the following counties or portions of counties:

<u>Nonattainment Area</u>	<u>County</u>
Kansas City Area	Jackson, County (p)
Herculaneum Area	Jefferson County (p)



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(p) indicates portion of county

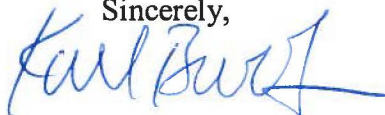
In the case of Greene County, the most recent monitoring data ending in 2012 show that the monitor in Greene County, MO is no longer recording violations of the 2010 Primary SO₂ 1-hour NAAQS. EPA therefore intends to not designate this area as nonattainment for the 2010 Primary SO₂ 1 hour NAAQS. This represents a modification of the state's recommendation provided on July 19, 2011. We understand that Missouri intends to provide a modified recommendation in the near future.

The EPA will continue to work with state officials regarding the appropriate boundaries for the areas in Missouri. If Missouri has additional information that you would like the EPA to consider, please submit it to us by April 8, 2013. We also will be publishing a notice in the Federal Register announcing a 30-day period for the public to provide input on EPA's preliminary designation decisions regarding the areas that we would designate as nonattainment based on monitoring data. We intend to promulgate these designations for areas with monitored violations of the 2010 SO₂ standard by June, 2013. We are not yet prepared to propose designations action or seek public comment on other areas.

We look forward to a continued dialogue with you and your staff as we work together to implement the 2010 primary SO₂ standard. For additional information regarding initial designations on the SO₂ standard, please visit our website at www.epa.gov/so2designations.

If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (913) 551-7006 or have your staff contact Sarah Hatch, State Governmental Liaison, at (913) 551-7199.

Sincerely,



Karl Brooks

Enclosure

cc: Sara Parker Pauley, Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Kyra Moore, Director
Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Air Pollution Control Program

Gina McCarthy, Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation
Stephen D. Page, Director, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards