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January 25, 2011

H. Curtis Spalding
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
5 Post Office Square – Suite 100
Boston, MA 02114-2023

Dear Mr. Spalding:

In January 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revised the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) by adding a 1-hour standard of 100 parts per billion (ppb). I am responding to your letter of November 23, 2010, requesting my recommendation concerning the attainment status of Massachusetts under the new 1-hour NO₂ NAAQS.

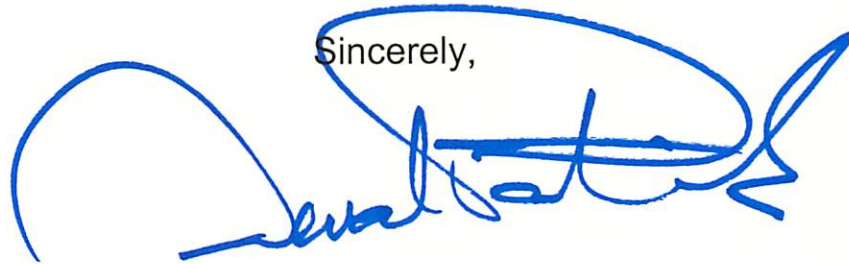
Massachusetts currently has 11 air quality monitors that measure ambient NO₂ concentrations. The certified data from these monitors (Attachment 1) demonstrates that the monitored NO₂ levels for 2007-2009 do not exceed the new 1-hour standard of 100 ppb at any of the existing monitors. However, EPA has concluded that data from existing monitors do not support a recommendation of attainment because the monitors are not sited to measure near-road NO₂ concentrations. EPA is requiring that we site new monitors to be operational by 2013. I am, therefore, recommending that all of Massachusetts be designated “unclassifiable” under the 1-hour NO₂ NAAQS reflecting the lack of adequate data on which to base a recommendation of “attainment.”

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If you need additional information concerning this recommendation, please contact Commissioner Ken Kimmell at the Department of Environmental Protection (617-292-5856). An electronic copy of this material is being provided to your staff.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to improve environmental quality in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H. Curtis Spalding", is written over the word "Sincerely,". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Enclosure

Handwritten signature in blue ink, possibly reading "K. H. ...".