



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JUN 14 2010

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

R-19J

The Honorable Tim Pawlenty
Governor of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Governor Pawlenty:

Thank you for your recommendations on air quality designations for the revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for lead throughout Minnesota. Reducing levels of lead pollution is an important part of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's commitment to a clean, healthy environment. Lead exposure can cause a range of adverse health effects, most notably in children. Exposures to low levels of lead early in life have been linked to effects on IQ, learning, memory and behavior. This letter is to notify you of EPA's response to Minnesota's designation recommendations, and to inform you of our approach for completing the designations for the revised lead NAAQS.

On October 15, 2008, EPA substantially strengthened the NAAQS for lead. The new standards, set at 0.15 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), are 10 times tighter than the previous standards. In conjunction with strengthening the lead NAAQS, EPA also established new criteria for siting ambient lead monitors. The pre-existing ambient lead monitoring network was inadequate for determining whether many areas are meeting the revised lead NAAQS. Monitors meeting the new network siting requirements were to begin operation January 1, 2010.

The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires EPA to complete the initial designation process within two years of promulgating a new or revised NAAQS. If the Administrator has insufficient information to make these designations, EPA has the authority to extend the designation process by up to one year. In light of the new monitoring network which will generate additional information in the upcoming year, EPA intends to complete the lead designations in two rounds. In the first round, to be completed by October 15, 2010, EPA is designating as "nonattainment" any area that is violating the 2008 lead NAAQS based on data from the pre-2010 monitoring network. For all other areas, EPA is extending the deadline for designations by up to one year so that data from the newly deployed monitors can be considered in making appropriate designation decisions. EPA will complete the second round of lead designations no later than October 15, 2011.

Consistent with the CAA, and after carefully considering Minnesota's October 15, 2009, recommendation letter and all the associated technical information for the 2008 lead NAAQS, including the most recent air quality data from 2007-2009, EPA is proposing to adopt Minnesota's recommended nonattainment designation and boundary for Eagan. The attached draft Technical Support Document provides a detailed analysis that supports our preliminary decisions.

We are making EPA's preliminary designation decisions and supporting documentation available to the general public for review. We are accepting public comments on our preliminary decisions through August 16, 2010. We will review any information we receive from the State of Minnesota and the general public by this date, and we plan to promulgate the first round of final designations by October 15, 2010.

For all other areas in Minnesota, EPA is deferring the designations decisions for up to one additional year so that additional lead air quality data can be collected. If you would like to submit updated recommendations for those areas for our consideration in the second round of designations, we request that you do so by December 15, 2010. For the second round of designations, we will notify States and Tribes of our preliminary responses to their recommendations by no later than June 17, 2011.

We look forward to a continued dialogue with you and your staff as we work together to implement the 2008 lead NAAQS. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me, or have your staff contact Cheryl L. Newton, Director, Air and Radiation Division, at (312) 353-2212.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Hedman', is written over a horizontal line.

Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator

Attachment

cc: Paul Eger
Commissioner
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

David Thornton
Assistant Commissioner
Policy and Planning Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency