



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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August 9, 2011

Susan Hedman, Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5 (R-19J)
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

RE: State of Minnesota Designation Boundaries Recommendation for NO₂

Dear Ms. Hedman:

Your letter of June 28, 2011, indicated that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intends to designate all areas of Minnesota as "unclassifiable/attainment" with the NO₂ National Ambient Air Quality Standard that became effective on April 12, 2010.

The letter also indicated that the designation for Minnesota would be based on the boundaries Minnesota recommended to the EPA in our designation recommendation or in any additional response provided.

In our initial designation recommendation, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) recommended an attainment designation for the entire state of Minnesota. However, after discussions concerning the impact of a statewide designation on the operation of Minnesota's delegated Prevention of Significant Deterioration permitting program, the MPCA recommends that the EPA instead make a designation for each county within Minnesota.

This recommendation does not include areas in the state that are under tribal jurisdiction. Those tribal governments which have met eligibility determination and have submitted a Tribal Implementation Plan to the EPA may submit designation requests to the EPA under the Tribal Authority Rule of 1998 (63 FR 7254).

As Commissioner of the MPCA and duly authorized by the Governor of the State of Minnesota, I am submitting this data and request on behalf of Governor Dayton.

If you have questions or comments on this submittal, please contact Catherine Neuschler of my staff at 651-757-2607.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Aasen
Commissioner

cc: Gilberto Alvarez, Attainment Planning and Maintenance Section, EPA Region 5
Will Seuffert, Office of Governor Mark Dayton