



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Division of Air Quality

Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor

Sheila C. Holman
Director

Dee Freeman
Secretary

February 10, 2012

Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming
Regional Administrator
USEPA Region 4
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Dear Ms. Fleming:

This letter is in response to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA's) request to the North Carolina Division of Air Quality (NCDAQ) to consider withdrawing the fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) attainment demonstration for the Greensboro-Winston Salem-High Point (Triad area) and Hickory PM_{2.5} nonattainment areas. This request is due to the final action by the USEPA determining that the Triad and Hickory areas have attained the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), i.e., Clean Data Determination, which became effective January 2010. Under the provisions of USEPA's PM_{2.5} implementation rule, the Clean Data Determination suspends the requirement for North Carolina to submit an attainment demonstration related to attainment of the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS for the Triad and Hickory areas as long as the areas continue to attain the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS. Further, EPA took final action on the redesignation request for these two areas and redesignated the areas to attainment for PM_{2.5} on December 19, 2011.

After careful consideration, the NCDAQ has decided to withdraw the attainment demonstration and the related contingency measures for the Triad and Hickory PM_{2.5} nonattainment areas. When the NCDAQ submitted the PM_{2.5} attainment demonstration in August 2009, we also requested that the system-wide emission caps from the North Carolina Clean Smokestacks Act (CSA) be incorporated into the North Carolina Federally approved State Implementation Plan (SIP). The NCDAQ is not withdrawing the request to incorporate the system-wide emission caps from the CSA into the federally approved SIP, since these caps are relied upon in the PM_{2.5} maintenance plans for these two areas.

If you should have any questions, please contact Laura Boothe of my staff at (919) 707-8721.

Sincerely,

Sheila C. Holman

SCH/lab

cc: Michael Abraczinskas
Laura Boothe
Scott Davis
Lynorae Benjamin

1641 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1641
2728 Capital Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27604
Phone: 919-733-3340 / FAX 919-715-7175 / Internet: www.ncair.org

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

One
North Carolina
Naturally