

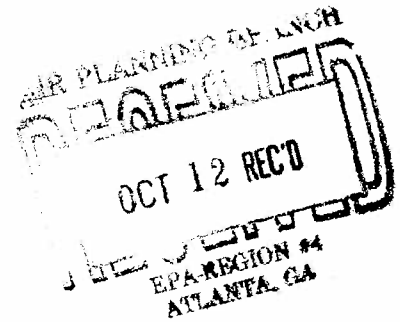
STEVEN L. BESHEAR  
GOVERNOR



LEONARD K. PETERS  
SECRETARY

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CABINET**  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
500 MERO STREET  
12<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, CAPITAL PLAZA TOWER  
FRANKFORT, KY 40601  
TELEPHONE: 502-564-3350  
FACSIMILE: 502-564-3354

September 30, 2011



Ms. Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. EPA, Region 4  
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RE: Withdrawal of PM<sub>2.5</sub> SIP revisions pertaining to the Kentucky portion of the Louisville and Cincinnati-Hamilton nonattainment areas.

Dear Ms. Fleming:

On July 18, 1997, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established an annual fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) at 15.0 micrograms per cubic meter based on a 3-year average of annual mean PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations (referred to as the 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS). As a result of the new 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS and the monitoring data available at the time, EPA designated the following areas nonattainment: Jefferson and Bullitt counties as part of the Louisville area; Boone, Campbell, and Kenton counties as part of the Cincinnati-Hamilton area. The Commonwealth of Kentucky was required to provide state implementation plan (SIP) submissions for each nonattainment area which addressed how the area would attain the NAAQS (i.e. the attainment demonstration), reasonably available control measures, emissions inventories, and contingency measures.

On March 9, 2011, EPA published a final rule making a determination that the Louisville area attained the 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards and is preparing a similar final rulemaking for the Cincinnati-Hamilton area. Upon determination by EPA that an area designated nonattainment for the PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS has attained the standard, 40 CFR section 51.1004(c) provides that the requirement for such area to submit attainment demonstrations and associated reasonably available control measures, contingency measures and other planning SIPs related to the attainment of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS shall be suspended until the area is redesignated to attainment, at which time the requirement no longer applies.

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Since the plans that Kentucky submitted relating to nonattainment designations for the 1997 PM 2.5 NAAQS are no longer necessary for the Louisville and Cincinnati areas, we are withdrawing the previously submitted attainment demonstrations for these areas with the exception of those portions of the attainment demonstration that pertain to emissions inventories. In conjunction with this withdrawal, Kentucky expects that EPA will expedite the approval for our previously submitted redesignation request for the Cincinnati-Hamilton PM<sub>2.5</sub> nonattainment area as well as the upcoming submittals for Louisville and the Huntington Ashland area. As you are well aware, if the redesignation request for Cincinnati Hamilton is not final by December 31, 2011, the maintenance plan will not be sufficient for approval. A delay will not only unnecessarily waste valuable state resources but could also negatively impact economic development in the Northern Kentucky area.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please contact Andrea Smith at the Division for Air Quality at (502) 564-3999.

Sincerely,



Leonard K. Peters  
Secretary

LKP/jeg

c: Beverly Banister  
Scott Davis