



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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MAR 17 2016

Ms. Heidi Hales, Director
Air Quality and Climate Division
Department of Environmental Conservation
Davis 2
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05620-3802

Dear Ms. Hales:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I would like to thank you for your January 6, 2016 submittal identifying sources to be characterized under the sulfur dioxide (SO₂) Data Requirements Rule (DRR).¹ I am writing to respond to your submittal and provide additional information about the next steps in this source characterization effort, which will result in important data that states and the EPA will use to protect public health.

On August 21, 2015, the EPA finalized the DRR, which requires state air agencies to characterize ambient SO₂ levels in areas with large sources of SO₂ emissions to help implement the 1-hour SO₂ National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). Under the DRR, state air agencies must, at a minimum, model or monitor air quality around sources that emit 2,000 tons per year (tpy) or more of SO₂ and that are not located in an area already designated nonattainment. For a source listed because it emitted more than 2,000 tpy, an air agency may avoid this requirement by adopting federally enforceable emission limits by January 13, 2017, that ensure that the source will emit less than 2,000 tpy of SO₂.

Under the DRR implementation schedule, state air agencies were required to submit to the EPA by January 15, 2016, a list that identifies all sources within its jurisdiction with SO₂ emissions of 2,000 tpy or more during the most recent year for which emissions data are available. Air agencies or the EPA may also include additional sources on a state's source list with SO₂ emissions below 2,000 tpy to ensure that air quality around such sources is appropriately characterized.

The EPA has reviewed your agency's submittal, which indicated that your state has no sources subject to the requirements of the DRR for air quality characterization. At this time, the EPA concurs that no sources in your state need to be listed as triggering DRR air quality characterization requirements.

¹ "Data Requirements Rule for the 2010 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS); Final Rule," 80 *Federal Register* 51052, August 21, 2015.

Please note that a copy of each state air agency's submittal and a compiled national list of sources subject to DRR requirements are posted on EPA's SO₂ implementation website at www3.epa.gov/airquality/sulfurdioxide/implement.html. We also plan to post this letter on that site in the near future.

Again, thank you for your letter and for your efforts to implement this important standard. For additional information concerning the DRR, please visit our SO₂ implementation website listed above. For additional information regarding designations under the SO₂ standard, please visit our website at www.epa.gov/so2designations. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me, or have your staff contact Leiran Biton of my staff at 617-918-1267 or biton.leiran@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



H. Curtis Spalding
Regional Administrator