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VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 14, 2016

Gina McCarthy
Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Re: Clean Air Act Notice of Intent to Sue pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 7604(b)(2) for failure to perform mandatory duties for PM2.5

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

On behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Center for Environmental Health (CEH), I am writing to inform you that CBD and CEH intend to file suit against you for “a failure of the Administrator [of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”)] to perform any act or duty under this chapter which is not discretionary with the Administrator.” 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a)(2). As explained below, EPA has failed to perform a mandatory duty with regard to particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (“PM2.5”).

EPA should remedy its violation of these mandatory duties to better protect the public from the harmful effects of PM2.5. PM2.5 is “produced chiefly by combustion processes and by atmospheric reactions of various gaseous pollutants,” thus “[s]ources of fine particles include... motor vehicles, power generation, combustion sources at industrial facilities, and residential fuel burning.” 71 Fed. Reg. 61,144, 61,146 (Oct. 17, 2006). The effects of PM2.5 on human health are profound. For example, long-term exposure has been associated “with an array of health effects, notably premature mortality, increased respiratory symptoms and illnesses (e.g. bronchitis and cough in children), and reduced lung function.” 62 Fed. Reg. 38,653, 38,668 (July 18, 1997).

PM2.5 also adversely impacts wildlife. EPA has explained “a number of animal toxicologic . . . studies had reported health effects associations with high concentrations of numerous fine particle components[.]” 71 Fed. Reg. 2,620, 2,643 – 2644 (Jan. 17, 2006). PM2.5 also causes direct foliar injury to vegetation. *Id.* at 2,682. As to broader ecosystem impacts,

EPA has explained that the nitrogen and sulfur “containing components of PM have been associated with a broad spectrum of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem impacts that result from either the nutrient or acidifying characteristics of the deposited compounds. *Id.* These impacts include nitrogen saturation which “causes 1) Decreased productivity, increased mortality, and/or shifts in terrestrial plant community composition, often leading to decreased biodiversity in many natural habitats wherever atmospheric [reactive nitrogen] deposition increases significantly and critical thresholds are exceeded; (2) leaching of excess nitrate and associated base cations from terrestrial soils into streams, lakes and rivers and mobilization of soil aluminum; and (3) alteration of ecosystem processes such as nutrient and energy cycles through changes in the functioning and species composition of beneficial soil organisms (Galloway and Cowling 2002).” *Id.* EPA has described this impacts on terrestrial ecosystems as “profound and adverse[.]” *Id.* EPA has also determined that PM_{2.5} adversely impacts aquatic ecosystems via excess nutrient inputs and acid and acidifying deposition. 71 Fed. Reg. at 2,682 – 2,683. “Data from existing deposition networks in the U.S. demonstrate that N and S compounds are being deposited in amounts known to be sufficient to affect sensitive terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems over time.” 71 Fed. Reg. at 2,683.

Moreover, PM_{2.5} adversely affects the aesthetics of our natural surroundings. For example, Regional haze is caused in part by particulates in the air scattering sunlight. EPA, Haze- How Air Pollution Affects the View (available at http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t1/fr_notices/haze.pdf). It is vital that EPA take the required actions in order to strengthen protection of public health and welfare against PM_{2.5}.

FAILURE TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE IN WHOLE OR PART

The Clean Air Act requires that if, six months after a state submits a SIP submittal, EPA has not made the completeness finding and has not found the submittal to be incomplete, the submittal is deemed administratively complete by operation of law. 42 U.S.C. § 7410(k)(1)(B). EPA must take final action on an administratively complete SIP submittal by approving in full, disapproving in full, or approving in part and disapproving in part within 12 months of the completeness finding. 42 U.S.C. § 7410(k)(2) - (4).

For the 2006 PM_{2.5} NAAQS NA SIP, states have submitted elements which were deemed complete by the date in the completion date column of Table 1. Thus, the due date for EPA to take final action on these submittals by approving or disapproving them in whole or part passed on the date in the final action due date column. However, EPA has not taken final action on these submittals as of the date of this letter. Thus, EPA is in violation of its mandatory duty in 42 U.S.C. § 7410(k)(2) - (4).

TABLE 1

AREA	ELEMENT(S)	COMPLETION DATE	FINAL ACTION DUE DATE
Imperial County, California	Attainment Demonstration, Contingency Measures, Emission Inventory, PM-2.5 RACM/RACT (Subpart 4), PM-2.5 RFP	7/9/2015	7/9/2016
Imperial County, California	PM-2.5 Nonattainment NSR	03/07/2014	03/07/2015

As required by 40 C.F.R. § 54.3, the persons providing this notice are:

The Center for Biological Diversity
1212 Broadway, Suite 800
Oakland, CA. 94612
Attn: Jonathan Evans
Tel: (510) 844-7100 x318

Center for Environmental Health
2201 Broadway, Suite 302
Oakland, CA 94612
Attn: Caroline Cox
Tel: (510) 655-3900

While EPA regulations require this information, please direct all correspondences and communications regarding this matter to the undersigned counsel.

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CBD, CEH and their counsel would prefer to resolve this matter without the need for litigation. Therefore, we look forward to EPA contacting us within 60 days about coming into compliance. If you do not do so, however, we will have to file or amend a complaint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Uj", is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Robert Ukeiley
Counsel for CBD & CEH