



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27711

OFFICE OF
AIR QUALITY PLANNING
AND STANDARDS

August 10, 2020

Ms. Darcy Bybee
Director
Air Pollution Control Program
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Post Office Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Ms. Bybee:

Thank you for the ongoing work that Missouri is doing to bring cleaner air to the people of your state. One of the most important air quality-related goals of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is to reduce the number of areas not meeting the national standards for air quality (nonattainment areas) across the United States. This goal ensures that we are serving the American people in an accountable way as we strive to meet our mission to protect human health and the environment.

Part of achieving our goal is collaborating with you to move areas in Missouri that have improved air quality from the status of “nonattainment” - not meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) under the Clean Air Act (CAA) - to the status of “attainment” with the NAAQS.

We are reaching out to you now because EPA recently released new air quality information, known as design values. Once a nonattainment area meets the NAAQS for a pollutant, the process for redesignating the area to attainment is achieved through a state-initiated effort under the CAA. Like much of the Agency’s work, EPA’s goal of reducing the number of nonattainment areas is only achievable through sustained collaboration between EPA and state air agencies. Consistent with EPA’s goal, we are reaching out to states where we see attaining design values and the likelihood that these areas could be on the path to redesignation. This outreach is intended to encourage you to continue conversations with your EPA Regional Office as you work toward air quality improvements in your state.

In particular, the Jackson County 2010 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide nonattainment area in your state has attained its respective air quality standards. After consultation with Air and Radiation Division Director Dana Skelley in EPA Region 7, I understand that you have been engaging with

the Region and are nearing completion on this submittal. I encourage you to continue your good work toward submitting the maintenance plan and redesignation request.

I also want to acknowledge our continued work on the Jefferson County 2010 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide nonattainment area. I recognize that this is a mutual priority to redesignate this area. EPA remains committed to working together to move your submitted redesignation request and maintenance plan forward expeditiously.

We recognize that attaining a NAAQS in an area often is the direct result of significant collaborative efforts by state and local agencies and related stakeholders to develop and implement an effective state implementation plan. Your EPA Regional Office is ready to discuss with you the remaining requirements toward redesignation for the Jefferson and Jackson County areas and to assist you as you develop a redesignation requests and approvable maintenance plans for submittal to EPA.

We appreciate your state's ongoing efforts to improve air quality. Ms. Skelley will reach out to you separately to discuss this topic further. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns about this letter, please reach out to Scott Mathias, Director of the Air Quality Policy Division in the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5310 or at mathias.scott@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Tsirigotis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "P" and "T".

Peter Tsirigotis
Director