

Date

Cristina Fernandez,  
Associate Director  
Office of Air Program Planning (3AP30)  
Air Protection Division  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2023

Sub: Request for expeditious publication of Clean Data Determination for the Washington DC-MD-VA 2015 Ozone NAAQS Nonattainment Area and a guidance for contingency measures to be included in attainment maintenance plan

Dear Ms. Fernandez:

[DOEE/MDE/DEQ] requests that EPA publish the Clean Data Determination (CDD) as soon as possible for the Washington DC-MD-VA 2015 8-hour Ozone NAAQS Nonattainment Area.

The Washington region is scheduled to be reclassified as a moderate nonattainment area for the federal 2015 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) effective November 7, 2022 (87 FR 60897, October 7, 2022). The region has implemented several emissions reduction measures across all sectors that, along with several federal control measures implemented over past several years, has led to significant improvement in ozone levels in the region. As a result, the region's certified design value for 8-Hour Ozone for the period 2019-2021 is 70 ppb, demonstrating attainment of the 2015 ozone NAAQS. The draft 2020-2022 design value (67 ppb) continues to show attainment of the above NAAQS.

For this reason, [DOEE/MDE/DEQ] requests EPA to publish a CDD for the region as soon as possible. The CDD will suspend the requirement to submit an attainment SIP for the region, which is due 1/1/2023, and will also enable the region to submit a redesignation request and maintenance plan to formally redesignate the area to attainment for the above NAAQS.

[DOEE/MDE/DEQ] also urges EPA to publish as soon as possible guidance for contingency measures to be included in an attainment plan. A number of court decisions in recent years regarding those measures necessitate a clear and comprehensive guidance from EPA providing details and clarity on how to include them in the attainment plan. Such guidance will be very helpful as we work to develop those plans now and in future.

Sincerely,

Air Director,

[DOEE/MDE/DEQ]