



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200

DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 - 2733

August 22, 2017

Office of the Regional Administrator

The Honorable Asa Hutchinson  
Governor of State of Arkansas  
500 Woodlane Street  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Governor Hutchinson:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) intended designations for certain areas in Arkansas for the 2010 Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>). The designations for this NAAQS are an important part of the EPA's commitment to a clean, healthy environment. These intended designations are a response to designations-related recommendations and information your state submitted in letters dated March 22, 2011, and January 24, 2017.

On July 25, 2013, the EPA designated certain areas in 16 states as nonattainment, but did not at that time designate other areas. Additional areas were designated on June 30, 2016, and November 29, 2016. In Arkansas, the following areas were designated in these previous actions: Independence County and Jefferson County. Pursuant to a March 2, 2015, court-ordered schedule,<sup>1</sup> the agency must complete the remaining SO<sub>2</sub> designations by two specific deadlines: December 31, 2017, and December 31, 2020. Accordingly, pursuant to section 107(d)(1)(B)(ii) of the Clean Air Act, this letter is to notify you of the EPA's assessment of your state's recommended designations for all remaining undesignated areas in Arkansas. While we are in agreement with your recommendation for many of these areas, some areas warrant further discussion as explained below and in the accompanying technical support document. We stand ready to assist and hope to resolve any differences regarding the proper designation for these areas within this 120-day period provided by the Clean Air Act.

To this end, if you or your staff have additional information that the EPA should consider prior to finalizing the designations, please submit it as soon as possible but no later than October 23, 2017. You may submit additional information by sending it to the EPA's public docket for these designations, EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0003, located at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), and sending a copy to EPA Region 6. The EPA also will publish a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing a 30-day comment period for the public to provide input on the EPA's intended designations.

The State of Arkansas has recommended a designation of unclassifiable/attainment for the areas indicated below. EPA regulations for implementing the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS require Arkansas to characterize SO<sub>2</sub> air quality in each listed area. In considering your recommendation, we have taken into account all available information, including any current (2014-2016) air monitoring data, and any air dispersion modeling analyses provided by Arkansas or by a third party. Our review of this information indicates

<sup>1</sup> *Sierra Club v. McCarthy*, No. 3-13-cv-3953 (SI) (N.D. Cal. Mar. 2, 2015).

that it is consistent with your recommendation. The EPA intends to designate each listed area as a separate unclassifiable area, as indicated.

<b>Intended Unclassifiable/Attainment Area</b>	<b>Included Counties</b>
Benton County	Benton County
Mississippi County	Mississippi County

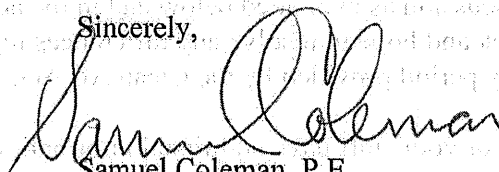
Enclosure 1 to this letter provides the information that supports the intended designation decisions for these areas in Arkansas.<sup>2</sup>

Finally, we intend to designate as unclassifiable/attainment all remaining areas of Arkansas that were not required to be characterized and for which EPA does not have information that suggests the area may not be meeting the NAAQS or contributing to air quality in a nearby area that does not meet the NAAQS. A list of these remaining areas is included in Enclosure 2.

The EPA will promulgate the final designations for the areas identified in this letter by December 31, 2017. We are prepared to work with you to resolve any disagreements with respect to the available information or information gaps. Upon the completion of this designation action, there will be no remaining areas in Arkansas to be designated.

We share your goal to provide cleaner air for citizens in your state. We look forward to a continued dialogue with you and your staff as we work together to complete the area designations and implement the 2010 primary SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. For additional information regarding designations under the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS, please visit our website at <https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations>. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me, or have your staff contact Dayana Medina of my staff at telephone: (214) 665-7241, email: [medina.dayana@epa.gov](mailto:medina.dayana@epa.gov).

Sincerely,



Samuel Coleman, P.E.  
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Becky Keogh, Director, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality  
Stuart Spencer, Chief of Air Division, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

<sup>2</sup> Enclosure 1 is Chapter 5 of the Technical Support Document for the designations EPA plans to complete by December 31, 2017, that addresses areas in Arkansas. The Technical Support Document is also available at <https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations>

Enclosure 2

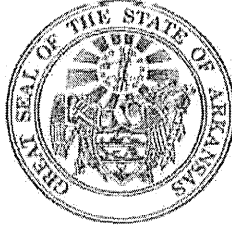
List of all remaining areas of Arkansas that were not required to be characterized and for which the EPA does not have information that suggests the area may not be meeting the NAAQS or contributing to air quality in a nearby area that does not meet the NAAQS. The EPA intends to designate each of these areas as a separate unclassifiable/attainment area.

<b>County</b>
Arkansas County*
Ashley County*
Baxter County*
Boone County*
Bradley County*
Calhoun County*
Carroll County*
Chicot County*
Clark County*
Clay County*
Cleburne County*
Cleveland County*
Columbia County*
Conway County*
Craighead County*
Crawford County*
Crittenden County*
Cross County*
Dallas County*
Desha County*
Drew County*
Faulkner County*
Franklin County*
Fulton County*

Garland County*
Grant County*
Greene County*
Hempstead County*
Hot Spring County*
Howard County*
Izard County*
Jackson County*
Johnson County*
Lafayette County*
Lawrence County*
Lee County*
Lincoln County*
Little River County*
Logan County*
Lonoke County*
Madison County*
Marion County*
Miller County*
Monroe County*
Montgomery County*
Nevada County*
Newton County*
Ouachita County*
Perry County*
Phillips County*
Pike County*
Poinsett County*
Polk County*
Pope County*

Prairie County*
Pulaski County
Randolph County*
St. Francis County*
Saline County*
Scott County*
Searcy County*
Sebastian County*
Sevier County*
Sharp County*
Stone County*
Union County
Van Buren County*
Washington County*
White County*
Woodruff County*
Yell County*

An asterisk (\*) indicates that the intended designation for this county or portion of a county represents a modification to the designation that Arkansas has most recently recommended.



**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
ASA HUTCHINSON  
GOVERNOR

January 24, 2017

Mr. Ron Curry  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI  
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200  
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Re: Submissions of Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) Area Attainment Designation Recommendation for Counties in the State of Arkansas.

Dear Mr. Curry:

Section 107(d)(1) of the Federal Clean Air Act requires state governors to recommend attainment status designations after the promulgation of any new or revised NAAQS. On June 2, 2010, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated a new primary 1-hour NAAQS for SO<sub>2</sub> at 75 ppb for the 3-year average of the 99<sup>th</sup> percentiles of the maximum daily values per calendar year.

As reflected in the State's letter dated March 22, 2011, all monitored counties in Arkansas are then and now attaining the existing primary and secondary SO<sub>2</sub> standards. However, as part of the implementation of the new 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS, EPA has begun requiring, in addition to monitoring data, the use of dispersion modeling for areas with facilities emitting SO<sub>2</sub> in quantities greater than the threshold set by the EPA.

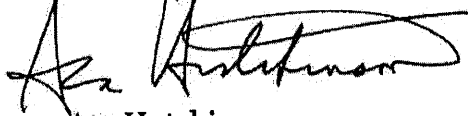
For Round 3, the current round of designations, two counties in Arkansas (Benton and Mississippi) are subject to this requirement because they include facilities with SO<sub>2</sub> emissions greater than the EPA-determined threshold for review. Benton and Mississippi counties are in compliance with the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS based on modeling analyses conducted by or for the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). Copies of the two Modeling Reports as well as two complete archives of AERMOD-associated modeling files are enclosed. As a result, Arkansas recommends that the two counties (Benton and Mississippi) be designated "unclassifiable/attainment".

Based on a Round 2 follow-up modeling demonstration involving both Entergy Arkansas Inc.'s Independence Steam Electrical Station and FutureFuel Chemical Company resulting from EPA's June 30, 2016 designation of Independence County as "Unclassifiable" based on "insufficient information", Arkansas also recommends that Independence County be designated "unclassifiable/attainment". A copy of the combined simulation Modeling Report and a complete archive of AERMOD-associated modeling files are enclosed.

In addition, the two counties with existing monitor sites, Pulaski and Union, continue to maintain the standard and should be designated as in "attainment". Jefferson County was already designated as "unclassifiable/attainment" by the EPA in Round 2. All other counties in Arkansas should be designated "unclassifiable."

For further information regarding these recommendations, please contact Stuart Spencer, Associate Director for the Office of Air Quality, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, by phone at 501-682-0750 or email at [SPENCER@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:SPENCER@adeq.state.ar.us).

Sincerely,



Asa Hutchinson

attachment: Table of Arkansas County Designation Recommendations

enclosures:

- 1) SO<sub>2</sub> Air Dispersion Modeling Report and a complete archive of AERMOD-associated modeling files for Southwestern Electric Power Company d/b/a Flint Creek Power Plant
- 2) SO<sub>2</sub> Air Dispersion Modeling Report and a complete archive of AERMOD-associated modeling files for Plum Point Services Company, LLC
- 3) SO<sub>2</sub> Air Dispersion Modeling Report and a complete archive of AERMOD-associated modeling files for a combined simulation for Entergy Arkansas Inc.'s Independence Steam Electric Station and FutureFuel Chemical Company

**Arkansas 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)  
Designation Recommendations**

County	Recommended Designation
Arkansas	Unclassifiable
Ashley	Unclassifiable
Baxter	Unclassifiable
Benton	Unclassifiable/Attainment <sup>1</sup>
Boone	Unclassifiable
Bradley	Unclassifiable
Calhoun	Unclassifiable
Carroll	Unclassifiable
Chicot	Unclassifiable
Clark	Unclassifiable
Clay	Unclassifiable
Cleburne	Unclassifiable
Cleveland	Unclassifiable
Columbia	Unclassifiable
Conway	Unclassifiable
Craighead	Unclassifiable
Crawford	Unclassifiable
Crittenden	Unclassifiable
Cross	Unclassifiable
Dallas	Unclassifiable
Desha	Unclassifiable
Drew	Unclassifiable
Faulkner	Unclassifiable
Franklin	Unclassifiable
Fulton	Unclassifiable
Garland	Unclassifiable
Grant	Unclassifiable
Greene	Unclassifiable
Hempstead	Unclassifiable
Hot Spring	Unclassifiable
Howard	Unclassifiable

<sup>1</sup> Current Round 3 recommendation based on enclosed Southwestern Electric Power Company d/b/a Flint Creek Power Plant Modeling Report



**Arkansas 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)  
Designation Recommendations (cont.)**

<b>County</b>	<b>Recommended Designation</b>
Independence	Unclassifiable/Attainment <sup>2</sup>
Izard	Unclassifiable
Jackson	Unclassifiable
Jefferson	Unclassifiable/Attainment <sup>3</sup>
Johnson	Unclassifiable
Lafayette	Unclassifiable
Lawrence	Unclassifiable
Lee	Unclassifiable
Lincoln	Unclassifiable
Little River	Unclassifiable
Logan	Unclassifiable
Lonoke	Unclassifiable
Madison	Unclassifiable
Marion	Unclassifiable
Miller	Unclassifiable
Mississippi	Unclassifiable/Attainment <sup>4</sup>
Monroe	Unclassifiable
Montgomery	Unclassifiable
Nevada	Unclassifiable
Newton	Unclassifiable
Ouachita	Unclassifiable
Perry	Unclassifiable
Phillips	Unclassifiable
Pike	Unclassifiable
Poinsett	Unclassifiable
Polk	Unclassifiable
Pope	Unclassifiable
Prairie	Unclassifiable

<sup>2</sup> Arkansas' recommended change to EPA's Round 2 June 30, 2016 designation

<sup>3</sup> Round 2 recommendation and EPA's June 30, 2016 designation

<sup>4</sup> Current Round 3 recommendation based on enclosed Plum Point Services Company, LLC Modeling Report

**Arkansas 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)  
Designation Recommendations (cont.)**

<b>County</b>	<b>Recommended Designation</b>
Pulaski	Attainment <sup>5</sup>
Randolph	Unclassifiable
St. Francis	Unclassifiable
Saline	Unclassifiable
Scott	Unclassifiable
Searcy	Unclassifiable
Sebastian	Unclassifiable
Sevier	Unclassifiable
Sharp	Unclassifiable
Stone	Unclassifiable
Union	Attainment <sup>5</sup>
Van Buren	Unclassifiable
Washington	Unclassifiable
White	Unclassifiable
Woodruff	Unclassifiable
Yell	Unclassifiable

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<sup>5</sup> Based on monitor data