UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

AUG 1 9 2014

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

The Honorable Michael R. Pence
Governor of Indiana
100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Governor Pence:

Thank you for your recommendation(s) dated December 12, 2013, and addendum dated May 12, 2014, of air quality designations for the 2012 revised primary annual fine particle ($PM_{2.5}$) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) throughout Indiana. I appreciate the information Indiana shared with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as we move forward to improve $PM_{2.5}$ air quality. This letter is to notify you of EPA's preliminary response to Indiana's recommendation and to inform you of our approach for completing the initial area designations for the 2012 revised primary annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard.

On December 14, 2012, EPA promulgated a revised primary annual $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS (78 FR 3086, January 15, 2013). In that action, EPA revised the primary annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard, strengthening it from 15.0 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu g/m^3$) to 12.0 $\mu g/m^3$; retained the existing 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ standard at 35 $\mu g/m^3$; retained the existing 24-hour PM_{10} (coarse particle) standard at 150 $\mu g/m^3$; and retained the current suite of secondary PM standards. EPA revised the primary annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard based on an integrated assessment of an extensive body of new scientific evidence, which substantially strengthens our body of knowledge regarding $PM_{2.5}$-related health effects. The revised primary annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard will provide increased protection for children, older adults, persons with pre-existing heart and lung disease, and other at-risk populations against an array of $PM_{2.5}$-related adverse health effects, including premature mortality, increased hospital admissions and emergency department visits, and development and exacerbation of chronic respiratory disease.

History shows us that better health and cleaner air go hand-in-hand with economic growth. Working closely with the states and tribes, EPA is implementing the standards using a commonsense approach that improves air quality and minimizes the burden on state, local, and tribal governments. As part of this process, EPA is working with the states and tribes to identify areas in the country that meet the standards and those that need to take steps to reduce $PM_{2.5}$ air pollution. Within one year of promulgation of a new or revised air quality standard, the Clean Air Act requires the Governor of each state to submit to EPA a list of all areas in the state, with a designation recommendation for each area. As a first step in implementing the 2012 annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard, Governors were to submit their designation recommendations, including appropriate area boundaries, by December 13, 2013.

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As required by the Clean Air Act, EPA then promulgates designations for all areas across the country. EPA designates an area as "nonattainment" if it is violating the 2012 annual $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS or if it is contributing to a violation of the NAAQS in a nearby area. Consistent with designations for previous $PM_{2.5}$ standards, EPA intends to use a designation category of "unclassifiable/attainment" for areas that are monitoring attainment or do not have monitors, but for which EPA has reason to believe are likely attainment and are not contributing to nearby violations. Additionally, EPA intends to designate as "unclassifiable" those areas where EPA cannot determine based on available information whether the area is meeting the NAAQS or where EPA has not determined that the area contributes to a nearby violation. At this time, EPA is proceeding with initial area designations using quality-assured, certified air quality monitoring data from 2011 to 2013.

EPA has reviewed Indiana's December 12, 2013 and May 12, 2014 designation recommendations and other relevant technical information, including 2011–2013 air quality data, and EPA intends to modify Indiana's recommended area designations for the Louisville, KY-IN and the Chicago, IL-IN areas. The intended Louisville, KY-IN nonattainment area reflects violation of the 2012 annual $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS in Clark County, Indiana. The 2011–2013 data do not indicate any violation of the 2012 annual $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS in Northwest Indiana. However, a recent EPA-conducted technical systems audit of Illinois' monitoring program revealed data quality issues in the Chicago area and elsewhere in Illinois which affect the designations for Lake and Porter Counties in Indiana. Because many if not all of the recent $PM_{2.5}$ monitoring data in Illinois must be considered invalid, EPA cannot determine whether the counties in the Illinois portion of the Chicago area (and elsewhere in Illinois) are meeting or not meeting the NAAQS or whether counties nearby to those Illinois counties, including two counties in Northwest Indiana, contribute to a nearby violation. Accordingly, EPA intends to modify Indiana's recommended area designation and designate Lake and Porter counties as unclassifiable. Technical Support Documents, which provide additional detail regarding our preliminary decisions, are enclosed and are also available on EPA's website at http://www.epa.gov/pmdesignations/2012standards/state.htm. EPA intends to designate all other areas of the state as unclassifiable/attainment. EPA will continue to work with state officials regarding the appropriate boundaries for the areas in Indiana. If Indiana has additional information for EPA to consider, please submit it to us by October 29, 2014.

EPA will make its proposed designation decisions and supporting documentation available to the general public for review and comment. We will be announcing a 30-day public comment period shortly in the *Federal Register*. After considering any additional information we receive, EPA plans to promulgate final annual $PM_{2.5}$ designations in December of 2014.

EPA is committed to working with the states and tribes to share the responsibility of reducing $PM_{2.5}$ air pollution. Current and upcoming federal standards and safeguards – including pollution reduction rules for power plants, vehicles, and fuels – will ensure steady progress to reduce $PM_{2.5}$-forming pollution and will protect public health in communities across the country. We

look forward to a continued dialogue with you and your staff as we work together to implement the 2012 annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard. If you any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Ronna Beckmann or Eileen Deamer, the Region 5 Intergovernmental Liaisons, at (312) 886-3000.

Sincerely,

Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator

Enclosures

cc: Tom Easterly
Commissioner, Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Keith Baugues
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Air Quality
Indiana Department of Environmental Management