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July 12, 2022

Ms. Kathryn M Amirpashaie, Principal
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Mr. Joshua Smith, Staff Attorney
Sierra Club Environmental Law Program

Ms. Stephanie Kodish, Senior Director and Counsel
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RE: Request for an Extension of Comment Period for Georgia's Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the Second Implementation Period from July 26, 2022, to August 1, 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) received your request, dated July 7, 2022, to extend the public comment period for Georgia's Regional Haze State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Second Implementation Period. Georgia EPD published a notice on Friday, June 24, 2022, to allow for public review and comment of the proposed SIP from June 24, 2022, through July 26, 2022. The notice also scheduled a public hearing for July 25, 2022, at 2 pm. In accordance with 40 CFR 51.102, states are required to provide at least 30 days for the public to provide written comments. The July 26, 2022, close of the comment period meets and exceeds this requirement by providing an additional day beyond the completion of the public hearing.

On April 7, 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) made the following announcement related to Visibility and Regional Haze:

“On April 7, 2022, EPA announced its intent to make findings that certain states have failed to submit regional haze implementation plans for the second planning period. The EPA intends to issue these findings by August 31, 2022. States wishing to avoid inclusion in the Findings of Failure to Submit should submit their second planning period SIPs by August 15, 2022.”

The comment extension request implies that Georgia EPD may submit their Regional Haze SIP up to August 31, 2022, but this is not accurate given the EPA's announcement. The EPA has further explained in conversation that they must use the period from August 15 to August 31 to determine if the SIP meets the minimum completeness criteria. If a SIP is deemed incomplete or the

determination of meeting minimum completeness criteria has not been completed by August 31, 2022, then the EPA intends to issue a finding of failure to submit. Because of this, Georgia EPD considers the August 15, 2022, submittal date a mandatory deadline to avoid a finding of failure to submit. Granting this extension request would reduce the number of available days Georgia EPD would have to review comments, respond to comments, and update the Regional Haze SIP in response to comments from 20 days down to 14 days. Because of the large number of comments that are expected to be submitted, Georgia EPD is unable to extend the comment period.

Georgia EPD appreciates your interest in this plan. Should you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact Steve Allison at Steve.Allison2@dnr.ga.gov or 470-938-3360.

Sincerely,



Karen D. Hays, P.E.
Chief, Air Protection Branch
Georgia Environmental Protection Division

KH:aa

c: Lynorae Benjamin, EPA Region 4
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