



Richard E. Dunn, Director

EPD Director's Office

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Mr. John Blevins
Acting Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

10/20/2021

RE: Macon Maintenance Area 1997 8-Hour Ozone Second Maintenance Plan

Dear Mr. Blevins:

With this letter, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is submitting for approval and incorporation a proposed revision to Georgia's State Implementation Plan (SIP). This revision includes a second maintenance plan, consistent with §175A(b) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), to provide for the continued maintenance of the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for the Macon maintenance area.

On February 16, 2018, the D.C. Circuit Court issued a decision in *South Coast Air Quality Management District v. EPA (South Coast II)* that held that "orphan maintenance areas" are required to submit the "second 10-year" maintenance plans under CAA section 175A(b). Therefore, these areas must submit a second maintenance plan to ensure maintenance through the full 20-year period following the effective date of redesignation. This second maintenance plan demonstrates that the Macon maintenance area will continue to maintain ozone levels below the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS of 0.08 ppm (84 ppb) for the remainder of the 20-year maintenance period ending in 2027. This second maintenance plan is being submitted as a limited maintenance plan. The limited maintenance plan was prepared in accordance with U.S. EPA guidance on limited maintenance plans in the form of a memorandum, issued on November 16, 1994, and the U.S. EPA resource document issued on November 20, 2018, on "orphan maintenance areas" for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

The public notice for this revision to Georgia's SIP was published via GovDelivery.com on August 27, 2021. A public hearing for the proposed revision was held on October 1, 2021. The public comment period ended on October 8, 2021. No comments were received during the public hearing. Written comments were received from EPA on September 27, 2021, and EPD's responses are enclosed. No other comments were received. A certification that the required public notice was provided and that a public hearing was held is enclosed.

As required by the federal SIP-processing regulations, we have enclosed the administrative materials and technical support checklists to satisfy the SIP submittal completeness criteria requirements. This revision is being submitted via EPA's State Planning Electronic Collaboration System (SPeCS).

Mr. John Blevins

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We look forward to your review and approval of this revision. Should you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact James Boylan at James.Boylan@dnr.ga.gov or (470) 524-0697.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard E. Dunn".

Richard E. Dunn
Director

RED:tv
Enclosures

c: Lynorae Benjamin, EPA Region 4
Pepa Sassin, EPA Region 4
Pearlene Williams, EPA Region 4
Karen Hays, Branch Chief, EPD Air Protection Branch