

## Jeffrey W. Cown, Director

Air Protection Branch 4244 International Parkway Suite 120 Atlanta, Georgia 404-363-7000

February 7, 2025

Ms. Denisse Diaz Acting Regional Administrator U.S. EPA, Region 4 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

RE: PM<sub>2.5</sub> Exceptional Event Demonstrations

Dear Ms. Diaz:

With this letter, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is submitting final  $PM_{2.5}$  Exceptional Event Demonstrations to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for 129 event days. Georgia EPD's 2021-2023 Exceptional Event Demonstrations show that Georgia EPD's  $PM_{2.5}$  ambient air monitoring network was impacted by multiple exceptional events throughout the 2021-2023 timeframe.

The following final PM<sub>2.5</sub> Exceptional Event Demonstrations are being submitted:

- Prescribed Fire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS at Augusta, GA in 2021-2023, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 02/04/2021, 02/25/2021, 02/26/2021, 02/27/2021, 02/28/2021, 03/09/2021, 03/10/2021, 03/13/2021, 04/07/2021, 04/08/2021, 04/28/2021, 07/23/2021, 10/15/2021, 11/10/2021, 12/02/2021, 12/04/2021, 12/05/2021, 12/06/2021, 12/16/2021, 03/03/2022, 12/28/2022, 03/01/2023, 03/16/2023, 04/20/2023, 11/06/2023, 11/07/2023, 11/09/2023, 12/07/2023, and 12/08/2023.
- Canadian Wildfire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS at Augusta, GA in 2023, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 06/09/2023, 06/10/2023, 06/18/2023, 06/29/2023, 06/30/2023, 07/01/2023, 07/18/2023, and 08/23/2023.
- Holiday Fireworks Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS at Augusta, GA in 2021-2023, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 07/04/2021, 07/05/2021, and 07/04/2023.
- Prescribed Fire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS at Columbus, GA in 2021-2023, which covers exceptional events on the

- following dates: 03/08/2021, 03/14/2021, 02/10/2022, 03/03/2022, 02/08/2023, 03/01/2023, and 03/07/2023.
- Canadian Wildfire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS at Columbus, GA in 2023, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 06/29/2023 and 07/17/2023.
- Prescribed Fire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS at Macon, GA in 2021-2023, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 04/07/2021, 12/03/2021, 03/03/2022, 03/07/2023, 10/03/2023, and 11/08/2023.
- Canadian Wildfire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS at Macon, GA in 2023, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 06/29/2023, 07/17/2023, 07/20/2023, 07/26/2023, and 08/25/2023.
- Prescribed Fire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS at Sandersville, GA in 2021-2023, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 03/13/2021, 04/07/2021, 04/08/2021, 01/15/2022, 01/31/2022, 02/01/2022, 02/11/2022, 02/12/2022, 02/14/2022, 02/15/2022, 03/03/2022, 03/04/2022, 03/29/2022, 05/18/2022, 09/21/2022, 09/22/2022, 10/07/2022, 10/24/2022, 10/25/2022, 11/02/2022, 11/03/2022, 11/18/2022, 11/19/2022, 11/21/2022, 12/28/2022, 12/29/2022, 01/02/2023, 01/08/2023, 01/10/2023, 01/11/2023, 01/17/2023, 01/29/2023, 02/07/2023, 02/24/2023, 02/28/2023, 03/01/2023, 03/05/2023, 03/07/2023, 03/08/2023, 03/09/2023, 03/21/2023, 11/05/2023, 11/06/2023, 11/07/2023, 11/08/2023, 11/09/2023, and 11/30/2023.
- Canadian Wildfire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS at Sandersville, GA in 2023, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 06/06/2023, 06/09/2023, 06/10/2023, 06/18/2023, 06/27/2023, 06/28/2023, 06/29/2023, 06/30/2023, 07/01/2023, 07/17/2023, 07/18/2023, 07/20/2023, 07/26/2023, 08/23/2023, and 08/25/2023.
- Canadian Wildfire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS at Atlanta, GA in 2023, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 06/29/2023 and 07/17/2023.
- Canadian Wildfire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS at Rossville, GA in 2023, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 06/08/2023, 06/17/2023, 06/29/2023, and 07/17/2023.

The public notice for the draft Exceptional Event Demonstrations was published December 20, 2024, on GovDelivery.com and the Georgia EPD Air Protection website. The draft Exceptional Event Demonstrations were also posted on the Georgia EPD Air Protection website for review on December 20, 2024. The public comment period ended on January 21, 2025. Written comments

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were received. A summary of the comments and EPD's responses are included as part of the submittal.

The PM<sub>2.5</sub> Exceptional Event Demonstrations are being submitted via EPA's State Planning Electronic Collaboration System (SPeCS). We look forward to your review and approval of these Exceptional Event Demonstrations. Should you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact James Boylan at <u>James.Boylan@dnr.ga.gov</u> or (470) 524-0697.

Sincerely,

James W. Boylan, Ph.D.

Chief, Air Protection Branch

Georgia Environmental Protection Division

JB:th Enclosures

c: Lynorae Benjamin, EPA Region 4 Donnette Sturdivant, EPA Region 4 Katy Lusky, EPA Region 4 Darren Palmer, EPA Region 4 Rick Gillam, EPA Region 4