

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division • Air Protection Branch
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Mark Williams, Commissioner

Judson H. Turner, Director

SEP 14 2012

Ms. Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming
Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3104

RE: Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request for the Georgia Portion of the
Chattanooga 1997 Annual PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Area

Dear Ms. Fleming:

With this letter, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is submitting for approval and incorporation the proposed revisions to Georgia's State Implementation Plan (SIP) to include a plan, consistent with §175A of the Clean Air Act, to provide for maintenance of the 1997 Annual PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) in Georgia's portion (Catoosa and Walker Counties) of the Chattanooga nonattainment area. This submittal also serves as a request that the Chattanooga Nonattainment Area be redesignated as an area attaining the 1997 Annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS upon approval of the Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee Maintenance Plans for the entire Chattanooga 1997 Annual PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Area.

The Chattanooga 1997 Annual PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Area is comprised of portions of three contiguous states; Hamilton County in Tennessee, Catoosa and Walker Counties in Georgia and a portion of Jackson County in Alabama. Redesignation of this area is contingent on the approval of the maintenance plans from all three states. Each plan must demonstrate the standard is maintained through the year 2025 based on an emissions analysis compared to the attainment year of 2007. The development of the maintenance plan for the Georgia portion of this area has been coordinated with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation, and the Chattanooga/Hamilton County Air Pollution Bureau. At the time of this submittal, the plans and emissions analysis for the Alabama and Tennessee portions of the area are not yet complete and cannot be substantively addressed by this submission.

On May 31, 2011, EPA published a final rule determining that the Chattanooga area had attained the 1997 fine particulate matter standards. On September 8, 2011, EPA published a final rule making a determination that the Chattanooga Area had attained the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} standard prior to the April 5, 2010 attainment date. Georgia EPD withdrew its previous submittal of nonattainment planning documents for the Chattanooga area in a letter to EPA dated June 29, 2011. The emissions inventory submitted with the October 16, 2009 SIP revision to comply with the Clean Air Act requirements of §172 for nonattainment areas was not affected by the June 29, 2011 request.

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The public notice for the proposed SIP revision was advertised using the EPD Air Protection Branch listserv mailing list for public notices. Attached to this transmittal letter is EPD's response to the comments received during the public comment period.

As required by the federal SIP-processing regulations, we have enclosed certifications that the required public notices were provided and that a public hearing was held. We have also enclosed the administrative and technical support checklists to satisfy the SIP submittal completeness criteria. This submittal includes one paper copy of each of the relevant documents and a compact disk with an electronic version of the documents. The electronic version is an exact duplicate of the paper copy.

We look forward to your review and approval of these revisions. Should you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact Jimmy Johnston at (404) 363-7014.

Sincerely,



Judson H. Turner
Director

JHT:JK:klc

Enclosures:

- Maintenance plan (one paper and one CD)
- Administrative checklist
- Technical checklist
- Certification of public hearing
- Copy of public notice
- Response to comments memo

Copy w/o encl:

Scott Davis, EPA Region 4
Lynorae Benjamin, EPA Region 4
James A. Capp, Branch Chief, EPD Air Protection Branch