



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

State House, Room 224
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
401-222-2080

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OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

October 29, 2013

H. Curtis Spalding, Regional Administrator
EPA Region I
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Dear Mr. Spalding:

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 107(d)(1) of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, Rhode Island is hereby submitting its recommendation for designation of the State's attainment status for the revised primary annual average National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), which was promulgated on December 14, 2012.¹ Note that the primary 24-hour average NAAQS for PM_{2.5}, the secondary NAAQS for PM_{2.5} and the NAAQS for coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀) were not changed in that action.

A monitoring site is in compliance with the revised NAAQS if the annual average design value for that site is less than or equal to 12 µg/m³, a level more stringent than the previous standard of 15 µg/m³. The design value is the average of the weighted annual mean PM_{2.5} concentrations measured at a site in three consecutive years. As shown in Table 1, PM_{2.5} annual design values at Rhode Island sites have not exceeded the revised NAAQS since 2005.

Table 1 Rhode Island PM_{2.5} Annual Average Design Values (µg/m³)

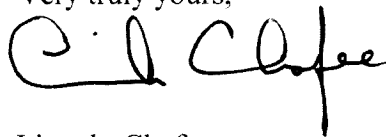
¹ 78 FR 3086, January 15, 2013, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-01-15/pdf/2012-30946.pdf>

	Alton Jones W Greenwich	Urban League Providence	Eddy St. Providence	Vernon St. Pawtucket	Francis School E Providence
2003	8.8	11.5			10.9
2004	8.3	11.2		12.6	10.4
2005	8.3	11.2		12.4	10.2
2006	7.9	10.7	11.1	12.0	9.9
2007	8.1	10.1	10.5	12.0	9.7
2008	7.8	9.6	10.0	11.4	9.2
2009	7.4	8.8	9.4	10.4	8.8
2010	6.7	8.3	8.5	9.6	8.3
2011	6.3	8.2	8.2	9.4	8.2
2012	6.3	7.9	8.1		8.0

Trends in annual PM_{2.5} design values at Rhode Island sites over the past ten years are shown in the attached Figure 1. PM_{2.5} levels at all Rhode Island sites have decreased over that time period. Note that the Vernon Street, Pawtucket monitor, which is located immediately adjacent to Interstate Route 95 and which tends to record higher PM_{2.5} concentrations than those at the other sites, was not operated for much of 2012 due to highway construction, so it was not possible to calculate a 2012 design value for that site. However, as with the other sites, the concentrations recorded at that monitor in recent years have been substantially below the revised NAAQS and have decreased with time.

Since monitored PM_{2.5} levels in Rhode Island do not exceed the revised annual average NAAQS for PM_{2.5}, I am recommending that Rhode Island be designated as an attainment area for the 2012 annual average PM_{2.5} NAAQS. If you have any questions about this issue, please feel free to contact Barbara Morin at the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Office of Air Resources at (401) 222-4700, extension 7012.

Very truly yours,



Lincoln Chafee
Governor

attachment

Figure 1 PM_{2.5} Annual Average Design Value Trends

