



Catherine B. Templeton, Director

*Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment*

November 10, 2014

Heather McTeer Toney  
Regional Administrator  
US EPA Region 4  
Atlanta Federal Center, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Re: EPA's August 19, 2014, response to South Carolina's designation recommendation for the 2012 PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS

Dear Ms. Toney:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your response to our state's designation recommendation. We support the EPA's deferral of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> designation for the Aiken-Augusta area in consideration of the monitoring data concerns. This is a proper use of the Clean Air Act's deferral option and forestalls a final designation that would not show the area meeting the PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS. It is our expectation that the 2014 monitoring data will support an "attainment" designation when the data is certified in 2015.

Please contact Robert J. Brown of my staff by telephone at (803) 898-4105 or by email at brownrj@dhec.sc.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Myra C. Reece, Chief  
Bureau of Air Quality

ec: Beverly Banister, U.S. EPA  
Keith Bentley, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division