

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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November 21, 2011

Diana Esher
Air Protection Division Director
US EPA Region III
1650 Arch Street (3AP00)
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Dear Ms. Esher:

The purpose of this letter is to request that the EPA make its final nonattainment designations for the Commonwealth of Virginia under the 2008 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) based on design values calculated using air monitoring data from the period of 2009 to 2011. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is in the process of reviewing the 2011 ozone season data and we plan to formally certify and submit these data by early December 2011. Using these 2011 design values will bring the Richmond area into compliance with the standard.

As you know, our initial area recommendations for this standard were submitted on March 11, 2009. At that time, the DEQ identified four areas in the Commonwealth that had 2008 ozone design values that was above the standard. These areas were the Northern Virginia portion of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area, Fredericksburg, Richmond, and Hampton Roads. However, the Fredericksburg and Hampton Roads areas came into compliance with the standard based on their 2010 design values and should also be designated as attainment areas. This leaves only the Northern Virginia area that is currently in nonattainment status for this standard.

Ms. Diana Esher
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Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this letter or if you would like to discuss the area designation process further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Dowd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Dowd".

Michael G. Dowd
Air Quality Division Director

cc: C. Fernandez, EPA Region III