



NORTH CAROLINA  
*Environmental Quality*

ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

MICHAEL S. REGAN  
*Secretary*

MICHAEL ABRACZINSKAS  
*Director*

August 1, 2024

Jeaneanne Gettle, Acting Regional Administrator  
USEPA Region 4  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Subject: Pre-hearing Draft of State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision and Clean Air Act Section 110(l) Noninterference Demonstration to Remove 19 Counties from North Carolina's Motor Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance (I&M) Program

Dear Ms. Gettle:

I am pleased to submit the Pre-hearing Draft of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision and Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 110(l) Noninterference Demonstration to remove 19 Counties from North Carolina's Motor Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance (I&M) Program. Enclosed is the complete package containing a mark-up copy of the proposed I&M SIP revision and the CAA Section 110(l) Noninterference Demonstration uploaded into the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) State Planning Electronic Collaboration System (SPeCS) for SIPs interface for your staff to review. Note that because we are proposing to remove all remaining counties from the I&M program, the mark-up copy of the proposed I&M SIP revision is completely struck out.

The North Carolina General Assembly enacted Session Law 2023-134, House Bill 259 (2023-2024 Appropriations Bill) effective October 3, 2023. Section 12.7 of S.L. 2023-134 amended North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) §143-215.107A(c) to remove 18 of the 19 counties from North Carolina's I&M program and changed the vehicle model year coverage for Mecklenburg County which is the only county retained in the program. After consultation with your staff, it was agreed that for the purpose of the North Carolina SIP, we are proposing to remove Mecklenburg County from the I&M program.

Based on a technical study of county-level emissions increases associated with the proposed I&M program change, and current ambient air quality data, the North Carolina Division of Air Quality (DAQ) concludes that removing the counties from North Carolina's I&M SIP will not interfere with continued attainment or maintenance of any applicable National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). Therefore, the DAQ is requesting EPA's approval to remove the remaining 19 counties from North Carolina's I&M SIP, which is a required before North Carolina can officially remove the counties from the I&M program.



Jeaneanne Gettle  
August 1, 2024  
Page 2

The DAQ will issue a public notice announcement, in accordance with 40 CFR 51.102, indicating that the pre-hearing draft of the proposed SIP Revision and CAA Section 110(l) Noninterference Demonstration to remove the 19 counties from North Carolina's I&M Program are available for public comment and are posted on the DAQ website for review. The public comment period will be open from Thursday, August 1, 2024, through Wednesday, September 4, 2024. The public notice announcement will indicate that anyone may request a public hearing by August 16, 2024, and, if requested by this date, the public hearing will be held on September 4, 2024. The public notice will include the hearing date, time, location, and methods to access the hearing.

In addition to posting on the website, the public notice announcement will be sent to a number of email distribution lists managed by the DAQ, which will include numerous stakeholders from industry and environmental groups. The DAQ has found that sending the public notice announcements to these groups is more effective than publishing the notices in a few local newspapers and is consistent with the requirements described in the April 6, 2011, memorandum, "*Regional Consistency for the Administrative Requirements of the State Implementation Plan Submittals and the Use of Letter Notices.*" The document will also be made available for in person review during normal business hours at the DAQ Central Office in Raleigh and the DAQ Regional Offices in Asheville, Fayetteville, Mooresville, Raleigh, Wilmington, and Winston-Salem.

The DAQ intends to submit a final version of this pre-hearing draft for incorporation into North Carolina's SIP through EPA's SpECS web-based system after considering relevant public comments. If you should have any questions, please contact Randy Strait of my staff at (919) 707-8721 or [randy.strait@ncdenr.gov](mailto:randy.strait@ncdenr.gov).

Sincerely,



Michael A. Abraczinskas, Director  
Division of Air Quality, NCDEQ

MAA/rps

Enclosures

cc: Lynorae Benjamin, USEPA  
Weston Freund, USEPA  
Denisse Diaz, USEPA  
Dianna Myers, USEPA  
Jane Spann, USEPA  
Taylor Hartsfield, DAQ  
Randy Strait, DAQ  
Tammy Manning, DAQ  
Heather Carter, DAQ  
Michael Koerschner, DAQ

Davis Murphy, DAQ  
Brad Newland, DAQ  
Dawn Reddix, DAQ  
Melinda Wolanin, DAQ  
William Barnette, Forsyth County Office of  
Environmental Assistance and Protection  
Ashley Featherstone, Asheville-Buncombe Air  
Quality Agency  
Leslie Rhodes, Mecklenburg County Air Quality  
Agency