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NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

February 28, 2025

Kevin J. McOmber, P.E., Regional Administrator
USEPA Region 4
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Subject: Second Ten-Year Maintenance Plan for The Charlotte-Gastonia-Salisbury, North Carolina Maintenance Area for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)

Dear Mr. McOmber:

I am pleased to submit the final *Second Ten-Year Maintenance Plan for The Charlotte-Gastonia-Salisbury, North Carolina Maintenance Area for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)* for approval into the North Carolina State Implementation Plan (SIP). Enclosed is the complete package uploaded into the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) State Planning Electronic Collaboration System (SPeCS) for your staff to review.

This maintenance plan covers the last 10 years of the 20-year maintenance period, from August 27, 2025, to August 27, 2035, to fulfill the requirements of Section 175A(b) of the federal Clean Air Act (CAA), as amended. Based on the information provided in this second 10-year maintenance plan and criteria established in Section 107(d)(3)(E) of the CAA, North Carolina is requesting that EPA approve this maintenance plan for the Charlotte-Gastonia-Salisbury maintenance area. The ozone monitoring data demonstrate that the maintenance area has attained the 2008 8-hour ozone NAAQS and maintained the NAAQS every year after redesignation. The maintenance plan also demonstrates that the projected emissions inventories for 2035, the final year of the maintenance plan, as well as the interim year of 2026, are all less than the 2018 base year emissions inventory. In addition, the maintenance plan includes contingency measures to be evaluated for implementation in the event of an air quality violation or other indications of an impending violation. Therefore, maintenance of the 2008 8-hour ozone NAAQS will continue to be maintained through the end of the 20-year maintenance period of August 27, 2035.

In addition, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality (DAQ) completed an Interagency Consultation process with its federal, state, and local transportation partners to develop motor vehicle emission budgets (MVEBs) for oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds to support transportation conformity planning analyses. In this submittal, the DAQ is also requesting EPA approval of new MVEBs for 2018 and 2035, and removal of the MVEBs for 2014 and 2026 associated with the first 10-year maintenance plan. The DAQ is not requesting EPA to deem the new budgets for 2018 and 2035 adequate prior to it completing action on this submittal.



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The DAQ issued a public notice announcement, in accordance with 40 CFR 51.102, indicating that the pre-hearing draft of the *Second Ten-Year Maintenance Plan for The Charlotte-Gastonia-Salisbury, North Carolina Maintenance Area for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)* was available for public comment and was posted on the DAQ website for review. The public comment period was open from Wednesday, November 20, 2024, through Friday, December 20, 2024. The notice indicated that the public may request a public hearing. The DAQ did not receive any requests for a public hearing or any comments from members of the public. Written comments were received from EPA. The public notice and the DAQ's response to EPA's comments are provided in Appendix E of this submittal.

In addition to posting on the website, the public notice announcement was sent to a number of email distribution lists managed by the DAQ, which included 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 was also available for in-person review during normal business hours at the DAQ Central Office in Raleigh and the DAQ Regional Office in Mooresville.

I look forward to the EPA's review and final approval of this *Second Ten-Year Maintenance Plan for The Charlotte-Gastonia-Salisbury, North Carolina Maintenance Area for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)*. If you should have any questions, please contact Tammy Manning of my staff at (919) 707-8717 or tammy.manning@deq.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



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

MAA/tkm

Enclosures

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