



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Division of Air Quality

Pat McCrory
Governor

Sheila C. Holman
Director

John E. Skvarla, III
Secretary

May 31, 2013

Gwen Keyes Fleming
Regional Administrator
USEPA Region 4
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Subject: Regional Haze 5-Year Periodic Review State Implementation Plan for
North Carolina Class I Areas

Dear Ms. Fleming:

I am pleased to submit the "Regional Haze 5-Year Periodic Review State Implementation Plan (SIP) for North Carolina Class I Areas". Enclosed is one hard copy of the complete package containing the 5-year periodic review SIP, as well as the supporting documentation as to how the emission estimates were developed and an exact duplicate electronic copy on compact disk.

This SIP revision addresses the requirements of the Regional Haze Rule at 40 CFR 51.308(g) requiring periodic reports that evaluate progress towards the State's Reasonable Progress Goals. Pre-draft comments received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 4 staff and Federal Land Managers (FLMs) have been addressed. The North Carolina Division of Air Quality (NCDAQ) has documented that based on visibility improvements observed in the 2006-2010 period and other source level activities, the State is on track to meet the 2018 reasonable progress goals for the North Carolina Class I areas and will not impede a Class I area outside of North Carolina from meeting their goals.

It is for the reasons outlined in the attached report that NCDAQ submits a negative declaration to the USEPA specifying that its Regional Haze SIP is sufficient in meeting the requirements outlined in the Regional Haze Rule. Furthermore, no additional controls are necessary at this time, as evidence by the five year progress report.

The NCDAQ issued a public notice announcement on February 26, 2013 indicating the Regional Haze 5-Year Periodic Review SIP was available for public comment. The public notice announcement was posted on the NCDAQ website, and offered the public an opportunity to request a hearing, in accordance with 40 CFR 51.102. The public notice announcement was also sent to a number of distribution lists managed by NCDAQ. These distribution lists included numerous stakeholders from industry, environmental groups, and transportation partners. The NCDAQ believed that sending the public notice announcement to these groups was more

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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 State Implementation Plan Submittals and the Use of Letter Notices." Additionally, the NCDAQ website has Rich Site Summary (RSS) feeds which regularly delivers changes to the website content to those that have signed up for it.

The public comment period was open from February 26, 2013 through April 1, 2013. No request for a public hearing was submitted to the NCDAQ. Comments were received from the USEPA and the National Parks Conservation/Sierra Club (NPCA/SC). The USEPA comments were minor, mostly requesting clarifying language be added to the SIP documentation. The NPCA/SC comments requested additional analysis, justification, and/or actions on the part of the State in relation to reliance on the Clean Air Interest Rule, treatment of missing measurement data, and status of controls on certain non-electric generating units. The NCDAQ has addressed each of these comments in the attached SIP submittal. Copies of the letters submitted by the commenters and NCDAQ responses are provided in Appendix C - Public Notice Report.

The NCDAQ believes it has in good faith addressed the requirements of the Regional Haze Rule at 40 CFR 51.308(g). The Division appreciates the assistance provided by USEPA and FLM staff regarding the formulation and review of this plan. Should you or your staff have any questions or comments concerning this SIP revision, please contact Sushma Masemore at (919) 707-8700.

Sincerely,



Sheila C. Holman

SCH/ssm

Attachment

cc: Michael Abraczinskas, NCDAQ
Sushma Masemore, NCDAQ
Scott Davis, USEPA
Lynorae Benjamin, USEPA