UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 25 2013

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Scott Walker
Governor of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 7863
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Governor Walker:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is moving forward to identify areas throughout the country where monitors have detected levels of sulfur dioxide above the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standard set in 2010. This action, required under the Clean Air Act, will assure continued work to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions and improve air quality in these areas.

In 2010, the EPA set a one-hour, health-based national air quality standard for sulfur dioxide at 75 parts per billion. The revised standard will improve public health protection, especially for children, the elderly, and people with asthma. These groups are susceptible to health problems associated with breathing sulfur dioxide, including narrowing of the airways which can cause difficulty breathing and increased asthma symptoms.

After reviewing the most recent certified sulfur dioxide air monitoring data and evaluating nearby areas that contribute to the monitored levels, I have determined that one area in Wisconsin violates the revised 2010 health-based standard for sulfur dioxide. As directed by the Clean Air Act, the EPA is designating this area "nonattainment." I appreciate the information that Wisconsin shared with the EPA as we take this step to inform citizens about their air quality. I look forward to working with you to continue the process of protecting public health by reducing sulfur dioxide levels in the air.

The EPA carefully considered the information provided by Wisconsin and has made modifications to your recommended designation. The enclosed table lists the area within Wisconsin that the EPA is designating as nonattainment in this initial round of designations. This nonattainment designation will take effect 60 days after the notice I signed today defining the area boundaries is published in the *Federal Register*. For this nonattainment area, measures to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions will be needed. The Clean Air Act directs Wisconsin to develop a State Implementation Plan that shows how the area will attain the sulfur dioxide standard as quickly as possible but no later than 5 years from the effective date of this designation. These plans need to be submitted to the EPA within 18 months from the effective date of designation of the nonattainment area.

At this time the EPA is designating as nonattainment areas in locations where monitoring data indicate violations of the 1-hour sulfur dioxide standard. The EPA intends to address the designations for all other areas in separate future actions. With input from a diverse group of stakeholders, the EPA has developed a comprehensive implementation strategy for these future actions that focuses resources on

identifying and addressing unhealthy levels of sulfur dioxide in areas where people are most likely to be exposed to violations of the standard. The strategy is available at: http://www.epa.gov/airquality/sulfurdioxide/implement.html.

Thank you for your continued work to improve air quality and protect public health. We look forward to working with you and your staff to implement the 2010 health-based sulfur dioxide standard. For additional information regarding these designations, please visit our website at www.epa.gov/so2designations.

Sincerely,

Gina McCarthy

Enclosure

Enclosure – Initial Nonattainment Area Designations, Wisconsin

State	Area Name	County Name	Designation
Wisconsin	Rhinelander, WI	Oneida (p)	Nonattainment

Designations for the rest of the state will be addressed in a separate future action.