



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 7

11201 Renner Boulevard  
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

APR 07 2016

Ms. Shelley Schneider  
Administrator, Air Quality Division  
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality  
1200 N Street, Suite 400  
PO Box 98922  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8922

Dear Ms. Schneider:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I would like to thank you for your January 15, 2016, submittal identifying sources to be characterized under the sulfur dioxide Data Requirements Rule.<sup>1</sup> I am writing to respond to your submittal and provide additional information about the next steps in this source characterization effort, which will result in important data that states and the EPA will use to protect public health.

On August 21, 2015, the EPA finalized the DRR, which requires state air agencies to characterize ambient SO<sub>2</sub> levels in areas with large sources of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions, to help implement the 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> National Ambient Air Quality Standard. Under the DRR, state air agencies must, at a minimum, model or monitor air quality around sources that emit 2,000 tons per year or more of SO<sub>2</sub> and are not located in an area already designated nonattainment. An air agency may avoid this requirement if a source that is subject to the DRR adopts federally enforceable emission limits that ensure that the source will emit less than 2,000 tpy of SO<sub>2</sub> by January 13, 2017.

Under the DRR implementation schedule, state air agencies were required to submit to the EPA by January 15, 2016, a list that identifies all sources within its jurisdiction with SO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 2,000 tpy or more during the most recent year for which emissions data are available. Air agencies or the EPA may also include sources with emissions below 2,000 tpy on the list to ensure that air quality around such sources is appropriately characterized.

The EPA has reviewed your agency's submittal and concurs with the list of sources provided. As such, the EPA is not adding other sources to the list at this time.

The next key milestone for purposes of DRR implementation is July 1, 2016, the date by which each air agency must identify, for each listed source, the approach it will use to characterize air quality in the respective area (air quality modeling, ambient monitoring or the establishment of a federally enforceable emission limit).

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<sup>1</sup> "Data Requirements Rule for the 2010 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS); Final Rule," 80 *Federal Register* 51052, August 21, 2015.



For sources that an air agency decides to evaluate through air quality modeling, the DRR requires the air agency to submit to the EPA Regional Administrator a modeling protocol by July 1, 2016, and the completed modeling analysis by January 13, 2017. For sources that an air agency decides to evaluate through ambient monitoring, the air agency will need to identify appropriate sites to characterize peak 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, and may need to relocate existing monitors or install new monitors at such sites. As further required under the DRR, the air agency must submit information about monitoring sites to the EPA Regional Administrator by July 1, 2016, as part of its annual monitoring network plan and in accordance with the EPA's monitoring requirements specified in 40 CFR part 58. The air agency must also ensure that ambient monitors will be operational by January 1, 2017.

As noted earlier, in lieu of characterizing air quality around a source with SO<sub>2</sub> emissions at or above 2,000 tpy, air agencies may indicate by the July 1, 2016, deadline that the source will adopt federally enforceable emissions limitations that will limit the SO<sub>2</sub> emissions to below 2,000 tpy. Such limits must be adopted and effective by January 13, 2017. The DRR requires that an air agency provide a description of the requirements and emission limits that the air agency intends to apply for the affected sources in their July 1, 2016, submittal.

We look forward to a continued dialogue with you and your staff as you prepare the required submittals that are due on July 1, 2016. To assist in this process, we are available to discuss any technical issues that you may have concerning either modeling or monitoring in order to assist you in meeting this requirement.

Please note that a copy of each state air agency's submittal and a compiled national list of sources subject to DRR requirements are posted on EPA's SO<sub>2</sub> implementation website at [www3.epa.gov/airquality/sulfurdioxide/implement.html](http://www3.epa.gov/airquality/sulfurdioxide/implement.html). We also plan to post this letter on that site in the near future.

Again, thank you for your letter and for your efforts to implement this important standard. For additional information concerning the DRR, please visit our SO<sub>2</sub> implementation website listed above. For additional information regarding designations under the SO<sub>2</sub> standard, please visit our website at [www.epa.gov/so2designations](http://www.epa.gov/so2designations). Should you have any questions, please contact David Peter of my staff at (913) 551-7397 or [peter.david@epa.gov](mailto:peter.david@epa.gov).

Sincerely,



Becky Weber  
Director  
Air and Waste Management Division