UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

MAY 10 2010

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Jan Brewer
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Brewer:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intends to designate a portion of Pinal County as "nonattainment" for the 2006 24-hour fine particle ($PM_{2.5}$) national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS), and to inform you of the status of our redesignation actions for the 1997 annual $PM_{2.5}$ and 1987 24-hour coarse particle (PM_{10}) standards.

On October 14, 2009, my predecessor, Laura Yoshii, sent you a letter informing you that, based on recent violations of the $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} NAAQS in Pinal County, EPA had determined that changes to air quality designations within your state would be necessary. These changes would include promulgation of an initial area designation for the 2006 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS, a revised designation for the 1997 annual $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS, and a revised designation for the 1987 24-hour PM_{10} NAAQS.

Thank you for your March 23, 2010 letter, in which you recommended that Pinal County retain its current designation of "unclassifiable/attainment" for the 1997 annual $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS and provided a recommended nonattainment area boundary for the 1987 24-hour PM_{10} NAAQS.

Designation for the 2006 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS.

Although EPA finalized designations for the 2006 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS for most areas last October, air quality monitoring data collected from 2006–2008 indicated that Pinal County was newly violating the standard. We decided to defer final action for Pinal County, as well as eight surrounding counties[1], so that we could collect and evaluate additional information sufficient to assess the area before promulgating designations.

We have completed our evaluation and intend to designate a portion of Pinal County as "nonattainment," as described in the enclosed detailed analysis. We intend to designate the

[1] The additional counties for which EPA has deferred designation are Cochise County, Gila County, Graham County, La Paz County, Maricopa County, Pima County, Yavapai County, and Yuma County. See Federal Register notice for final 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ designations, at: www.epa.gov/pmdesignations/2006standards/regs.htm#3.

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remaining State lands in Pinal County as well as the remaining eight deferred counties as "unclassifiable/attainment." Should you have additional information that you wish to be considered by EPA in this process, please provide it to us by June 18, 2010, as we intend to make final designation decisions for the 2006 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS in August 2010.

Redesignation for the 1997 annual $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS.

Based on our analysis, we have determined that the violating monitor in Pinal County is not eligible for comparison with the annual $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS.[2] Therefore, EPA intends to retain the "unclassifiable/attainment" designation for Pinal County, Arizona, for the 1997 annual $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS.

Redesignation for the 1987 24-hour PM_{10} NAAQS.

We have not yet completed our review of the documentation you provided in support of your recommended nonattainment area boundary. We will notify you of our intended designation when we have completed our evaluation, and will provide an opportunity for you to comment on the proposal.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to develop area designations. After promulgation of the new 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS designation for this area, EPA will work with your staff to develop an appropriate State Implementation Plan to assure the public health protections intended by the standard. Your air quality staff may wish to contact Deborah Jordan, Air Division Director at 415-947-8715 or Colleen McKaughan, Associate Air Division Director at 520-498-0118.

Sincerely,

Jared Blumenfeld
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: See next page

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[2] 40 CFR §58.30(a)(1) describes monitoring site characteristics that would result in the monitor being ineligible for comparison with the annual $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS.

cc: Benjamin H. Grumbles, Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Henry Darwin, Deputy Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Nancy Wrona, Senior Policy Advisor to the Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Ira Domsky, Acting Director, Air Quality Division, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Don Gabrielson, Director, Pinal County Air Quality Control District
Max Porter, Acting Director, Maricopa County Air Quality Department
Ursula Kramer, Director, Pima County Department of Environmental Quality