



NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

ROY COOPER
Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN
Secretary

MICHAEL ABRACZINSKAS
Director

December 14, 2020

Mary S. Walker, Regional Administrator
USEPA Region 4
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Subject: State Implementation Plan Revision and Clean Air Act Section 110(l) Noninterference Demonstration to Remove Lee, Onslow, and Rockingham Counties from North Carolina's Motor Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance (I&M) Program

Dear Ms. Walker:

I am pleased to submit the final the *State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision and Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 110(l) Noninterference Demonstration to Remove Lee, Onslow, and Rockingham Counties from North Carolina's Motor Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance (I&M) Program*. Enclosed is the complete package containing a clean and mark-up copy of the proposed SIP revision, and a clean copy of the CAA Section 110(l) Noninterference Demonstration, uploaded into the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) State Planning Electronic Collaboration System (SPeCS) for SIPs interface for your staff to review.

The North Carolina General Assembly enacted Session Law 2020-5, House Bill 85 (An Act to Remove Lee, Onslow, and Rockingham Counties from the Motor Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program) which amended North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) §143-215.107A(c) to remove three of 22 counties from North Carolina's I&M program. The I&M program change will increase emissions of nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, and carbon monoxide in each of the three counties where the vehicle emissions inspection requirements would be removed. Thus, a SIP revision is being submitted to EPA to demonstrate that air quality would be maintained and that the SIP complies with the requirements of Section 110(1) of the CAA, as amended.

Based on a technical study of county-level emissions increases associated with the proposed I&M program change, and current ambient air quality data, the North Carolina Division of Air Quality (DAQ) concludes that removing the three counties from North Carolina's I&M SIP will not interfere with continued attainment or maintenance of any applicable National Ambient Air



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | Division of Air Quality
217 West Jones Street | 1641 Mail Service Center | Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1641
919.707.8400

Quality. Therefore, the DAQ is requesting EPA's approval to remove Lee, Onslow, and Rockingham Counties from North Carolina's I&M SIP, which is a required before North Carolina can officially remove the counties from the I&M program.

The DAQ issued a public notice announcement, in accordance with 40 CFR 51.102, indicating that the pre-hearing draft of the proposed I&M SIP Revision and CAA Section 110(l) Noninterference Demonstration to remove Lee, Onslow, and Rockingham Counties from North Carolina's I&M Program was available for public comment and posted on the DAQ website for review. The public comment period was open from Wednesday, November 4, 2020 through Monday, December 7, 2020.

In addition to posting on the DAQ's website, the public notice announcement was sent to a number of email distribution lists managed by the DAQ, which includes 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."*

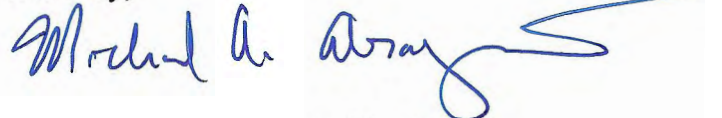
In order to address guidance to minimize the spread of COVID-19, the public notice indicated that a digital public hearing via Cisco's WebEx teleconferencing service would be scheduled if a public hearing were requested. The document was also made available for in person review during normal business hours at the DAQ Central Office in Raleigh and the DAQ Regional Offices in Raleigh, Wilmington, and Winston-Salem.

The DAQ did not receive any requests for a public hearing or any written comments from the public during the comment period. The public notice and EPA's no-comment letter are included in Appendix E of the final CAA Section 110(l) Noninterference Demonstration.

I look forward to the EPA's review and final approval of the clean version of the proposed revision to North Carolina's SIP and CAA Section 110(l) Noninterference Demonstration to Remove Lee, Onslow, and Rockingham Counties from North Carolina's motor vehicle emissions I&M program.

If you should have any questions, please contact Randy Strait of my staff at (919) 707-8721 or randy.strait@ncdenr.gov.

Sincerely,



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

Mary S. Walker
December 14, 2020
Page 3

MAA/rps

Enclosures

cc: Michael Pjetraj, DAQ
Randy Strait, DAQ
Tammy Manning, DAQ
Brad Newland, DAQ
Ray Stewart, DAQ
Dena Pittman, DAQ
Evan Adams, USEPA
Lynorae Benjamin, USEPA
Sarah Larocca, USEPA
Dianna Myers, USEPA
Jane Spann, USEPA