Appendix A

Public Notice and

U.S. EPA No-Comment Letter
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NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
PUBLIC NOTICE

PURPOSE: The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality (DAQ), hereby gives notice regarding its pre-hearing draft of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision of the Limited Maintenance Plan (LMP) for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP), Rocky Mount, & Triangle Maintenance Areas for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). The DAQ prepared this LMP for the GSMNP, Rocky Mount, and Triangle maintenance areas for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS to comply with the D.C. Circuit decision that vacated EPA’s interpretation that the second maintenance plans were not required for “orphan maintenance areas” (i.e., areas that had been redesignated to attainment for the 1997 ozone NAAQS (maintenance areas) and designated attainment for the 2008 ozone NAAQS) (South Coast, 882 F.3d 1138 (D.C. Cir. 2018)). The LMP covers the last 10 years of the 20-year maintenance period for each area as follows:

- GSMNP – January 7, 2020 through January 6, 2030
- Rocky Mount – January 6, 2017 through January 5, 2027
- Triangle – December 27, 2017 through December 26, 2027

The DAQ prepared the LMP following EPA guidance to fulfill the requirements of Clean Air Act Section 175A(b) with respect to the second maintenance plan period for each of the three areas. The DAQ intends to submit a final version of this LMP to EPA for incorporation into North Carolina’s SIP after considering relevant public comments.

COMMENT PROCEDURES: Any person wishing to comment may submit a written statement for inclusion in the record of proceedings regarding the pre-hearing draft of the Limited Maintenance Plan (LMP) for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP), Rocky Mount, & Triangle Maintenance Areas for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). Written comments should be submitted electronically or postmarked no later than Wednesday, September 9, 2020.

REQUESTS FOR A PUBLIC HEARING: Requests for a public hearing must be in writing and include a statement supporting the need for such a hearing, an indication of your interest in the subject, and a brief summary of the information intended to be offered. In order to address current guidance to help minimize the spread of COVID-19, a digital public hearing via Cisco’s WebEx teleconferencing service will be scheduled if a public hearing is requested. A separate notice will be announced for the hearing including the date, time, and methods to access the WebEx meeting. Written requests for a public hearing should be postmarked or submitted electronically no later than Wednesday, September 9, 2020.

INFORMATION: Copies of the pre-hearing draft of the Limited Maintenance Plan (LMP) for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP), Rocky Mount, & Triangle Maintenance Areas for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) may be downloaded from the DAQ website at https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/air-quality/air-quality-planning/state-implementation-plans-sips/limited-maintenance. Comments or requests for a public hearing can be submitted to: daq.publiccomments@ncdenr.gov (Please type “LMP 1997 Ozone NAAQS” in the subject line)

Alternatively, comments or requests for a public hearing can be mailed or faxed to:
Randy Strait
NC Division of Air Quality
1641 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1641
Fax: (919) 715-0718

Based on the current guidance to minimize the spread of COVID-19, all DAQ office locations are limiting public access to appointments only. As such, the Pre-Hearing Draft of the demonstration may only be reviewed in person after making an appointment at the following DAQ offices:

Raleigh Central Office, Planning Section (919) 707-8403
Raleigh Regional Office (919) 791-4286
Asheville Regional Office (828) 299-7043

Date: 8/5/20

Michael A. Abraczinskas, DAQ Director
September 9, 2020

Mr. Michael Abraszinskas, Director
Division of Air Quality
North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
1641 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1641

Dear Mr. Abraszinskas:

Thank you for your letter dated August 5, 2020, transmitting a prehearing package regarding the Limited Maintenance Plan for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Rocky Mount, & Triangle Maintenance Areas for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard. If requested, these revisions are the subject of a public hearing via Cisco’s WebEx teleconference. We have completed our review of the submittal and offer no comments at this time.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jane Spann, Acting Chief, Air Regulatory Management Section at (404) 562-9029, or your staff contact Mr. Evan Adams at (404) 562-9009.

Sincerely,

Lynorae Benjamin
Acting Chief
Air Planning and Implementation Branch

cc: Randy Strait, DAQ
    Patrick Knowlson, DAQ