



REGION 3

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

Joseph Jakuta
Branch Chief
Air Quality Planning Branch
Air Quality Division
Department of Energy and Environment
1200 First Street, NE, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Jakuta:

This letter provides a response to the December 4, 2023 email containing the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) exceptional event (EE) Initial Notification (IN) submittal, dated November 30, 2023, regarding exclusion of ozone (O₃) data affected by EEs. The IN stated that emissions from Canadian wildfires in 2023 caused exceedances of the 2015 O₃ National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) on June 29, 2023 at the following monitoring sites within the Washington, DC-MD-VA Nonattainment Area: McMillan Reservoir (AQS ID: 11-001-0043) and River Terrace (AQS ID 11-001-0041). The IN indicated that the (preliminary) 2023 design value for the McMillan Reservoir monitor would change from violating to attaining based on exclusion of the data for the date indicated in the IN.

Based on the information provided in DOEE's IN submittal, EPA has determined that O₃ data from June 29, 2023 at the McMillan Reservoir site may affect a future regulatory decision and the exceedances could be considered for exclusion under the Exceptional Events Rule. However, EPA has determined that O₃ data from June 29, 2023 at the River Terrace site do not currently have regulatory significance under the Exceptional Events Rule, therefore, EPA will defer action on this portion of the EE request.

EPA has been in communication with DOEE regarding this request. Based on the nature of the events and the anticipated timing of EPA's determination of whether the Washington, DC-MD-VA area attained by the applicable attainment date of August 3, 2024, EPA requests that the demonstration be formally submitted to EPA no later than February 1, 2024. Please be sure to certify data relating to this EE request prior to submittal to EPA.

EPA encourages continued communication throughout the development and submittal of this EE demonstration. If you have any questions regarding this response, please feel free to contact me at (215) 814-2178, Alice Chow at (215) 814-2144, or my staff lead, Verena Joerger at (215) 814-2218. We appreciate your partnership in working through implementation of the Exceptional Events Rule.

Sincerely,

Cristina Fernández
Division Director
Air & Radiation Division
EPA Region 3

cc: Hannah Ashenafi
Rama Tangirala
Kane Samuel