



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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May 22, 2012

Mr. Dennis J. McLerran, Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

**RE: Determination of Clean Data for the Tacoma-Pierce County Nonattainment Area**

Dear Mr. McLerran:

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) requests that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) make a Determination of Clean Data for the Tacoma-Pierce County Nonattainment Area (Nonattainment Area). EPA designated the area nonattainment in 2009 for the 24-hour fine particulate (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) established in 2006.

Recent air quality data from monitors located throughout the Nonattainment Area, including the design site at South L Street in Tacoma, measure PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels that are in compliance with the NAAQS. The 2009-2011 design value from the Tacoma South L Street monitor is 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. This meets the 2006 24-hour standard for PM<sub>2.5</sub> of 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Ecology understands that in accordance with 40 CFR 51.1004, EPA's Clean Data Determination for the 2006 24-hr PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS suspends requirements for Ecology to submit the following:

- An attainment demonstration and associated reasonably available control measures;
- Reasonable further progress plans;
- Contingency measures; and
- Other planning SIPs related to attainment of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS.

We also understand that EPA can rescind the suspension of these planning requirements if monitored concentrations violate the federal 24-hour standard and EPA subsequently issues a finding that the area no longer meets the NAAQS.

If Ecology can provide assistance in processing this request, please contact Richelle Perez at [richelle.perez@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:richelle.perez@ecy.wa.gov) or (360) 407-7528.

Sincerely,

Ted Sturdevant  
Director

