

July 24, 2015

The Honorable Pat Calhoun
Goliad County Judge
P. O. Box 677
Goliad, Texas 77963

Subject: July 2016 Designations - 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard

Dear Judge Calhoun:

The enclosed information is provided to notify you of upcoming United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) activity regarding designations for the 2010 primary Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) that may affect your county.

In April 2012, the governor recommended attainment and unclassifiable for Texas county designations. In July 2013, the EPA made designations for some areas in the country. No areas in Texas were designated nonattainment. However, the EPA was sued over delays in completing designations. On March 2, 2015, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California accepted as an approvable order an agreement between the EPA, the Sierra Club, and the Natural Resources Defense Council to resolve litigation concerning the deadline for completing SO₂ designations. The court's order directs the EPA to complete designations in three rounds. The first round includes areas that have newly monitored violations of the standard, and ones that contain any stationary source that according to the EPA's Air Markets Database either emitted more than 16,000 tons of SO₂ in 2012 or emitted more than 2,600 tons of SO₂ and had an emission rate of at least 0.45 lbs. SO₂/MMbtu in 2012, and has not announced for retirement by March 2, 2015.

The EPA anticipates notifying states of its intended designations early in 2016. Once a state is notified of the EPA's intended designations, it may submit a rebuttal and/or additional applicable information for EPA consideration.

Based on the criteria established by the enforceable order, the EPA has identified 12 power plants in Texas as "large SO₂ emissions sources," based on their 2012 emissions. The list of facilities includes the Coletto Creek Power Station in your county. Our agency has informed plant representatives that the EPA will be evaluating and proposing designations for these facilities in the coming months. Updated recommendations from states and any additional information that interested parties would like to submit for consideration is due to the EPA by September 18, 2015.

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Additional information is available on [EPA's Sulfur Dioxide Designations Web page](http://www.epa.gov/airquality/sulfurdioxide/designations/) (<http://www.epa.gov/airquality/sulfurdioxide/designations/>). If you have questions, please contact Isaac Albarado at 512-239-3505 (Isaac.Albarado@tceq.texas.gov), or David Brymer at 512-239-1725 (David.Brymer@tceq.texas.gov).

Sincerely,

Richard A. Hyde, P.E.
Executive Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Enclosure