



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
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CHRIS CHRISTIE
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Commissioner

March 11, 2011

Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator
Unites States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator
Ariel Rios Bldg.
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Mail Code: 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

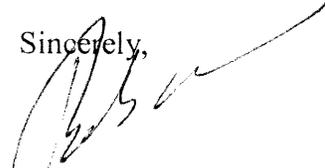
Dear Administrator Jackson,

On September 17 and May 12, 2010, on behalf of the State of New Jersey, I submitted petitions pursuant to Section 126 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7426, seeking reductions in air pollution from the GenOn Energy coal-fired Portland Generating Station ("Portland Plant") in Upper Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. The September 17, 2010 petition demonstrated that emissions from the Portland Plant are causing nonattainment of the 1-hour sulfur dioxide ("SO₂") National Ambient Air Quality Standard ("NAAQS") in New Jersey. Based on conversations with Regional Administrator Judith Enck and Janet McCabe, I am now expecting EPA's proposed response on New Jersey's petitions by the end of March.

New Jersey has started gathering data from a new SO₂ air quality monitor located 1.2 miles northeast of the Portland Plant in Knowlton Township, Warren County, New Jersey. Between September 23, 2010 and February 17, 2011, this monitor measured 1-hour SO₂ concentrations that exceeded the 1-hour SO₂ NAAQS threshold on nine days. New Jersey's CALPUFF and AERMOD modeling submitted with its petitions predicted similar SO₂ exceedances at the monitor's location. Therefore, the monitoring data corroborates the modeling results. Enclosed is a report entitled "Analysis of the Sulfur Dioxide Measurements from the Columbia Lake NJ Monitor." This report reviews and evaluates the collected SO₂ monitoring data.

As always, I welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you and your staff. I can be contacted at (609) 292-2885.

Sincerely,



Bob Martin
Commissioner

- c: Judith A. Enck, Regional Administrator, US EPA Region 2
- Shawn M. Garvin, Regional Administrator, US EPA Region 3
- Gina McCarthy, Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation, US EPA
- Janet McCabe, Office of Air and Radiation
- John Hanger, Secretary, PADEP
- Paula T. Dow, New Jersey Attorney General