



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029
NOV 10 2016

The Honorable Benjamin H. Grumbles, Secretary
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Dear Secretary Grumbles: *Ben*

By letter and enclosures dated May 19, 2016, the Maryland Department of Environmental (MDE) submitted to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) an annual ambient air monitoring network plan in accordance with the regulatory requirements of 40 CFR Part 58 - Ambient Air Quality Surveillance. Based on our review, EPA Region III hereby approves MDE's May 19, 2016 annual ambient air monitoring network plan on the basis that the plan meets the requirements of 40 CFR Part 58.10.

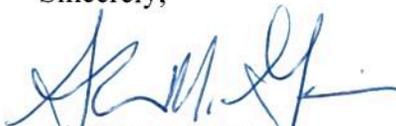
Additionally, 40 CFR Section 58.11(c) requires any changes to the air monitoring network or design of the following air monitoring systems be approved by the EPA Administrator:

- a) Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Systems (PAMS)
- b) Particulate Matter Speciation Trends Network (STN)
- c) The National Core Monitoring Network (NCore)

EPA determined that MDE's May 19, 2016 annual ambient air monitoring network plan does require approval from the EPA Administrator because there is a request to terminate PM₁₀ monitoring at the Piney Run rural NCore location. A copy of this letter and MDE's ambient air monitoring network plan have been forwarded to EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) for determination of final approval.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Ms. Linda Miller, EPA's Maryland Liaison, at (215) 814-2068 or Ms. Cristina Fernandez, Director, Air Protection Division, at (215) 814-2178.

Sincerely,


Shawn M. Garvin
Regional Administrator

