



TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

December 13, 2013

Karl Brooks
Regional Administrator
Region 7, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
11201 Renner Blvd.
Lenexa, KS 66219

Dear Administrator Brooks:

On December 14, 2012, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency revised the primary annual National Ambient Air Quality Standard for fine particles. One year after EPA promulgates a new standard, the Governor of each State must review the most recent monitoring data and classify all areas of their State as "attainment," "nonattainment" or "unclassifiable" with respect to the new standard.

With the exception of the monitor located at Muscatine High School East Campus, all other fine particle monitors recorded annual values less than the standard (see Attachment A, Table 1).

I therefore recommend that all Iowa counties, with the exception of Muscatine County, be designated as "unclassifiable/attainment" with respect to the annual fine particle National Ambient Air Quality Standard. I also recommend that a portion of Muscatine County be designated as "nonattainment" (as specified in Attachment B), and "unclassifiable/attainment" in the remainder of Muscatine County.

The monitored fine particle levels for Muscatine have been trending downward recently (Attachment A, Figure 1). Additionally, implementation of a fine particulate control strategy is underway in Muscatine to address previously monitored values that violated the 24-hour fine particle standard. The nonattainment recommendation for a portion of Muscatine County may be amended at a future date after data from the entire calendar year 2013 becomes available.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions on this topic. I appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry E. Branstad".

Terry E. Branstad
Governor of Iowa