

January ____, 2009

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mail Code 6102T
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Washington, D.C. 20460
Facsimile: (202) 566-9744
E-Mail: a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov

Re: Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Sulfur Dioxide,
Docket ID No. **EPA-HQ-OAR-2007-0352**

Dear Sir or Madam:

On December 8, 2009, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to revise the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂). (74 Federal Register 64810). The NAAQS had not been changed since 1971. Many health studies support revising the NAAQS.

EPA is proposing to do the following, among other things:

1. Revise the standard by establishing a 1-hour standard of between 50-100 ppb SO₂;
2. Require that monitors be located in areas of expected maximum concentrations of SO₂;
and
3. Change the requirements for monitors to incorporate improvements in technology.

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) supports the proposal by EPA to revise the NAAQS for SO₂ to establish a 1-hour standard (and recommends the 50 ppb 1-hour standard be adopted because it is supported by the data and will be protective of human health.) As EPA proposed, monitors should be sited in the areas where the maximum concentrations of SO₂ are expected. Regarding improved technology for monitors, H-GAC supports EPA's proposal to require better technology, technology that is currently in use in the H-GAC area, to monitor for SO₂.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Jack Steele

JS/jbf

Cc: Dr. Michael J. Stewart, Health and Environmental Impacts Division, EPA