



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-3104

January 12, 2022

Jeff Koerner, Director  
Division of Air Pollution Control  
The Florida Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Bob Martinez Center  
600 Blair Stone Road  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Mr. Koerner:

I am writing to you in response to your July 1, 2021, verification of continued attainment report for the Hillsborough-Polk maintenance area for the 2010 1-hour sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) primary national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) to characterize ongoing air quality for the Mosaic Fertilizer New Wales and Bartow facilities. This report provides an assessment of modeling inputs and assumptions and compliance with enforceable SO<sub>2</sub> emission limits for Mosaic New Wales and Mosaic Bartow to verify continued attainment of the 1-hour standard in the Hillsborough-Polk area. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designated the Hillsborough-Polk area nonattainment December 21, 2017<sup>1</sup> based on air dispersion modeling of actual emissions data for Mosaic New Wales and Mosaic Bartow facilities. The EPA redesignated the area on February 20, 2020, based on air dispersion modeling of new, permanent, and enforceable SO<sub>2</sub> allowable emission limits for both facilities which provided for modeled attainment of the 1-hour standard.<sup>2</sup>

For redesignating a nonattainment area to attainment, section 107(d)(3)(E)(iv) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) requires, among other criteria, the Administrator has fully approved a maintenance plan that meets the requirements of section 175A of the CAA. Section 175A sets forth the criteria of a maintenance plan which, among other requirements, must demonstrate continued attainment of the applicable NAAQS for at least 10 years after the Administrator approves a redesignation to attainment. In lieu of an ambient air monitor in the Hillsborough-Polk area, air quality in the vicinity of the two Mosaic facilities was characterized based on air dispersion modeling which was also the basis for the redesignation. Florida's 175A maintenance plan requires the air agency review emissions data and air dispersion modeling inputs and assumptions on an annual basis for the Mosaic New Wales and Mosaic Bartow facilities in coordination with the EPA to verify the area's continued to attainment of the 1-hour standard.

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<sup>1</sup> See 83 FR 1098; published January 9, 2018, and effective April 9, 2018

<sup>2</sup> See 85 FR 9666; effective March 23, 2020

Florida's July 1, 2021, verification report confirms the State's review of emissions data and air dispersion modeling inputs and assumptions including compliance with the 24-hour block average SO<sub>2</sub> allowable emission limits for the two Mosaic facilities based on the criteria established in the maintenance plan. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) certifies the area's continued attainment of the 1-hour standard concluding there are no changes in the modeling inputs and assumptions that could result in modeled violations and presently no additional action or information is necessary to verify continued attainment. At this time, the EPA concurs with Florida's evaluation and agrees the annual review of emissions data and air dispersion modeling parameters for Mosaic New Wales and Mosaic Bartow verifies continued attainment of the 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> standard for the Hillsborough-Polk maintenance area in accordance with section 175A of the CAA. The next verification report is due July 1, 2022.

Thank you all for the work your agency does to support improved air quality. If you have any questions, please contact me at (404) 562-9040 or Pepa Sassin at 404-562-9075.

Sincerely,

Lynorae Benjamin  
Chief  
Air Planning and Implementation Branch

cc: Hastings Read, FDEP