Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd Rutherford
Lieutenant Governor

Ben Grumbles
Secretary

May 26, 2017

Mr. Cecil A. Rodrigues
Acting Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III-Middle Atlantic Region
1650 Arch Street (3RA00)
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Dear Mr. ~~Rodrigues~~ Cecil:

During the periods of May 25 & 26, 2016 and July 21 & 22, 2016, smoke plumes coming from wild fires in Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada and Northwestern Canada, respectively, adversely affected the air quality in Maryland. Due to the influence of this extraordinary event that occurred outside of the United States, exceedances of the 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) were measured in Maryland. According to the provisions contained in the revised Exceptional Events Rule at 40CFR50.14 and the EPA guidance document titled "Guidance on the Preparation of Exceptional Events Demonstrations for Wildfire Events that May Influence Ozone Concentrations", a state may request that monitoring data affected by natural events, such as forest fires, be excluded from being used to calculate compliance with NAAQS.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or Department) is requesting that the ozone monitoring data contained in the attached two Exceptional Events Demonstrations be excluded from calculations used to demonstrate compliance with NAAQS.

If you have any questions regarding either of these two Exceptional Events Demonstrations, please contact Tad Aburn, Director, Air and Radiation Management Administration at 410-537-3201, or by email at George.Aburn@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Ben Grumbles
Secretary

cc: Alice Chow, EPA Region III
Kia Long, EPA Region III