HAPTER \h \r 1]**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

November 30, 2021

Tommy Wells
Director
Department of Energy & Environment
1200 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Wells,

Thank you for your October 7th, 2021 submission of a request for EPA to exclude ozone data in the District from March 16 through December 31, 2020 through the Exceptional Events Rule process. EPA has reviewed the District's request and is unable to approve the exclusion of the associated data under the Exceptional Events Rule.

An exceptional event means an event(s) and its resulting emissions that affect air quality in such a way that there exists a clear causal relationship between the specific event(s) and the monitoring exceedance(s) or violation(s), is not reasonably controllable or preventable, in an event(s) caused by human activity that unlikely to recur at a particular location or a natural event(s), and is determined by the Administrator in accordance with 40 CFR 50.14 to be an exceptional event (40 CFR 50.1).

The preamble to 81 FR 68230 states, *"If the event-influenced data do not result in an exceedance or violation, they are not eligible for exclusion under the Exceptional Events Rule"*. The event that the District is requesting data exclusion for did not result in an exceedance or violation. As such, EPA cannot grant exclusion of the March 16 through December 31, 2020 ozone data as requested by the District.

For questions regarding this response, your staff may contact Ms. Cristina Fernandez, Director of the Air & Radiation Division, (215) 814-2178.

Sincerely,

Adam Ortiz
Regional Administrator