**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**
**Region 1**
**5 Post Office Square**
**Boston, MA 02109-3912**

December 22, 2016

Christine Kirby, Acting Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Waste Prevention
Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Ms. Kirby:

Thank you for your November 9th, 2016 initial notification letter of a potential exceptional event for ozone on May 25-28, 2016. Since you have decided to move forward with this exceptional event request, and informational flags in EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) for the monitors and days affected have been set, my staff will reach out to your staff to further discuss this request.

We plan to discuss the technical support items that could be included in the demonstration, and will work with you as it is prepared. As of right now, Massachusetts has not provided any technical support. Your demonstration must show a clear, causal relationship between the wildfire event and the high ozone concentrations for hourly data at any monitor in your state where you are requesting exclusion of data. As you know, you provided informational flags to every monitor in the State for this timeframe. Due to the distance between the fire and your state, a robust analysis may be necessary. As you know, Connecticut and other States are currently in the process of investigating this exceptional event as well. Coordinating with these States would also be a reasonable next step.

A final demonstration must be prepared and submitted for approval no later than May 31st, 2017. This demonstration must go through a 30-day public comment period and public comments must be addressed prior to the formal submission of the exceptional event request.

We are here to help, so do not hesitate to contact Catie Taylor at 617-918-8607 or Anne McWilliams at 617-918-1697 with any questions or concerns. We look forward to working with you as you prepare this demonstration.

Sincerely,

Dave Conroy, Chief
Air Programs Branch
Office of Ecosystem Protection

cc: Glenn Keith, MassDEP