



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 6 2016

OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

Mr. Nicholas K. Akins  
Chair, Energy and Environment Committee  
Business Roundtable  
300 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Akins:

Thank you for your letter dated July 27, 2016, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Administrator Howard Shelanski, expressing your interest in policies addressing background ozone levels. We appreciate your continued attention and involvement in background ozone issues.

As you indicate in your letter, the provisions in the Exceptional Events Rule address certain aspects of background ozone. The EPA's revisions to the Exceptional Events Rule and the *Guidance on the Preparation of Exceptional Events Demonstrations for Wildfire Events that May Influence Ozone Concentrations* are currently undergoing inter-agency review conducted by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). We intend to finalize the rule revisions before October 1, 2016.

In addition, the proposed implementation rule for the 2015 ozone National Ambient and Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), which is also undergoing OMB review, will address the EPA's ongoing evaluation of the need for further guidance and/or rules to address background ozone, as well as related efforts to refine and conduct national and global model simulations to better characterize background ozone. We anticipate issuing the proposed implementation rule for the 2015 ozone NAAQS this fall.

We will consider the policy recommendations expressed in your letter, as well as any additional recommendations that you may submit during the public comment period for the ozone NAAQS implementation rule, as we develop appropriate policies addressing background ozone under Clean Air Act authorities.

Again, thank you for your letter. I appreciate the opportunity to be of service and trust the information provided is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janet G. McCabe", is located below the "Sincerely," text.

Janet G. McCabe  
Acting Assistant Administrator