



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0435

ROBERT J. MARTINEAU, JR.
COMMISSIONER

BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

February 13, 2017

The Honorable Bob Corker
Dirksen Senate Office Building
SD-425
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Corker:

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is requesting your assistance for the Office of Federal Register to move along the proposed approval of our non-interference determination (i.e., the RVP SIP we submitted to EPA for parallel processing on 9/8/2016 and as a final, effective rule on 11/21/2016).

The proposal has been signed by the Regional Administrator and sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication but is currently on hold for review by the new administration. Based on our conversations with EPA Region 4 staff, it is uncertain how long the review will take. Once the proposal is published, there will be a minimum 30-day comment period followed by promulgation of a final approval. After final approval of our non-interference determination, EPA then has to propose and finalize revisions to the federal regulation that sets the lower RVP standard for Middle Tennessee. EPA has indicated that a revision to the federal rule could be done through "direct final" rulemaking. A direct final rule is one that is proposed and, if no comments are received during the comment period (usually 30 days), automatically becomes effective without the need for a final approval to be published in the Federal Register.

Approval will allow the state of Tennessee to sell the same type of fuel in every county except Shelby County (the Shelby County Health Department is responsible for and has initiated a similar process) during the summer months, significantly reducing the regulatory burden to the fuel industry and the cost of fuel to the consumer. In order for the refiners to get the summer fuel runs in place in a timely manner, this process needs to be reactivated immediately.

Would your office make contact with the appropriate person to get this particular deregulation released from the freeze? Anything you can do to help move this proposal along will be much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shari L. Meghreblian, PhD".

Shari L. Meghreblian, PhD
Deputy Commissioner