



January 10, 2024

Via [EPA Central Data Exchange](#)

Mr. Eric Wortman
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Re: *Initial Notification of Potential Exceptional Events for Ozone in the Greater Connecticut Nonattainment Area.*

Dear Mr. Wortman:

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) observed several ozone episodes in 2023 that were potentially influenced by smoke from fires in the United States and Canada. DEEP has flagged all data at the monitors in Greater Connecticut as having been influenced by the fires on the dates listed in the table below.

Event Date(s)	Fires	Type
April 13-14, 2023	Flint Hills, Kansas Luzerne County, Pennsylvania Orange and Rockland Counties, New York Ocean and Passaic Counties, New Jersey	Prescribed and Wild
June 30 – July 1, 2023	Quebec (aggregate)	Wild
July 12, 2023	Western Canada (aggregate)	Wild

The following factors lead us to conclude that these fires influenced the flagged data are:

- April 13-14 saw widespread and unusually high pre-season ozone levels throughout Connecticut. Back trajectories trace to prescribed fires in the Flint Hills, Kansas area and smoke from these fires enhanced background ozone levels which were further increased by nearby wildfires in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey.
- June 30 – July 1 particulate and ozone levels reached unhealthy levels throughout the region. Back trajectories indicate the Quebec fires, which had been burning since early

June, were the source of smoke contributing to these unusually high particulate and ozone levels throughout the northeastern United States. On July 1st, DEEP issued a press release for the entire state warning the public of unhealthy levels of ozone and particulate due to Canadian wildfires.

- July 12 saw the season's highest ozone levels in the state. Back trajectories lead to western Canada where wildfires were burning and satellite images show the plume travel from Canada to the Midwest and into coastal Connecticut.

Information regarding the affected data is included in the attached notification form (EPA R1 IN Template) and supplemental tables. The information and this letter will be submitted through the [EPA Central Data Exchange](#).

In accordance with 40 CFR 50.14(c)(2) of the "Exceptional Events Rule," discussions between our offices are required to assess whether the data collected during the events will affect a regulatory determination and to determine the scope of the exceptional events' technical demonstration. If there are any questions regarding this initial notification or to arrange these discussions, please contact Pete Babich at pete.babich@ct.gov.

Sincerely,



Tracy R. Babbidge, Chief
Bureau of Air Management

Attachments:

EPA R1 IN Template
Supplemental Tables 1 & 2

cc: Michele Kosin, EPA
Bob McConnell, EPA
Paul Farrell, DEEP
Pete Babich, DEEP
Randall Semagin, DEEP
Kiernan Wholean, DEEP