OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

July 15, 2003

Mr. Richard Greene
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Dear Administrator Greene:

Pursuant to the requirements in Section 107(d) of the Clean Air Act and the March 28, 2003, letter from your office, enclosed are the initial recommendations for designation of areas in the State of Texas with regard to the 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS).

We understand from the March 27, 2003, guidance issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation that these recommendations may be reviewed and revised as appropriate based on the 2003 ozone data and the EPA's promulgation of its 8-hour ozone NAAQS implementation rule in the fall of 2003 and January 2004, respectively. It is my intent that the State of Texas will take full advantage of these review and revision opportunities. Therefore, I ask that you consider these enclosed recommendations as preliminary, since they may be revised as appropriate upon completion of the reviews of more up-to-date information mentioned in EPA's guidance.

These recommendations were developed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) taking into consideration the existing EPA guidance on 8-hour ozone NAAQS boundaries, with focus on the aspects of that guidance that make the most sense for air quality improvement and public health protection in Texas. In particular, we predicate the recommendations on the commitment to plan and implement air quality solutions on a regional basis across the state. I understand from your office's comments on the draft of these recommendations that an analysis of the 11 contributory factors was requested with this submittal. To address this request, I encourage appropriate staff from your office to meet with representatives of TCEQ at their convenience to discuss and review any further information that may be needed to allow your concurrence with these recommendations.

If you have any questions or wish to arrange a meeting with TCEQ, please feel free to contact TCEQ's Chairman Robert J. Huston at (512) 239-5505.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:wwp

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Robert J. Huston

State of Texas
8-hour Ozone Designation Recommendations
Nonattainment Counties

Houston/Galveston Area
Brazoria
Chambers
Fort Bend
Galveston
Harris
Liberty
Montgomery
Waller

Dallas/Fort Worth Area
Collin
Dallas
Denton
Ellis
Johnson
Parker
Tarrant

Beaumont/Port Arthur Area
Hardin
Jefferson
Orange

Other Counties
Travis
Bexar
Gregg

Rest of State
Attainment