# TCEQ LogoNational Comments

# Executive Review Summary

**TCEQ Proposed Comments On:**

***Federal Register*, Vol.** 83, No. 31, February 14, 2018: Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Interstate Transport Requirements for the 1997 and 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS

**Overview of Proposal:**

On February 14, 2018, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to approve portions of three Texas state implementation plan (SIP) submittals pertaining to Federal Clean Air Act (CAA) requirements to prohibit emissions that will significantly contribute to nonattainment or interfere with maintenance of the 1997 and 2006 fine particulate matter (PM2.5) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in other states. Concurrently, the EPA withdrew its proposed rule to disapprove the portion of the November 23, 2009 Texas SIP submittal that intended to demonstrate that the SIP met CAA requirements to prohibit emissions that will significantly contribute to nonattainment or interfere with maintenance of the 2006 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS in other states.

**Summary of Comments:**

The comment letter addresses the following topics:

* The TCEQ supports the EPA’s proposed approval that Texas meets its transport obligations for these NAAQS.
* The EPA’s proposed approval is based on a review of 2014 future year modeled design values for the Madison County, Illinois receptor, which the EPA found to be linked for nonattainment and maintenance to emissions from Texas under the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) for the 1997 and 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS.
* While the TCEQ agrees with the EPA’s conclusion that Texas does not significantly contribute to nonattainment or maintenance in any other state, we disagree with EPA’s method for determining significant contribution.
* The EPA’s framework establishes the 1% of NAAQS threshold as the default definition of significant contribution to nonattainment or interference with maintenance. The TCEQ has maintained and noted in comments to the EPA on its transport modeling, that an arbitrary threshold of 1% of the NAAQS for significant contribution to nonattainment or interference with maintenance is inappropriate and incomplete.

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**Deputy Director Approval: Steve Hagle, P.E./Office of Air**

**Deadline: 3/16/18**