

From: Joint Advisory Committee for the Improvement of Air Quality in the Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, El Paso, Texas, Doña Ana County, New Mexico Air Basin  
Technical Commission on Nonattainment Redesignation for El Paso, Texas

To: Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC)

Date: December 13, 2001

Subject: Resolution on Proposed Request by the TNRCC to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) regarding Redesignation of El Paso, Texas as an area which is in Attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

*Background*

The El Paso, Texas area is classified as a nonattainment area for ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO) and particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less (PM<sub>10</sub>) in accordance with the Federal Clean Air Act Amendments (FCAAA) of 1990. Ambient air quality data indicate that El Paso is eligible for consideration for redesignation to attainment of the NAAQS for these pollutants. Due to improved air quality in the Paso del Norte region, the JAC, in its advisory role, has taken under consideration the proposal for redesignation of the El Paso area to attainment under the FCAAA

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

After consideration of available data, the JAC Technical Commission on Nonattainment Redesignation for El Paso has a favorable opinion regarding proposals by the TNRCC to pursue a request for redesignation of the El Paso area to attainment of the NAAQS for CO, O<sub>3</sub>, and PM<sub>10</sub> with the following considerations:

- 1) The JAC would like to participate in development of the revision to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) which will include a Maintenance Plan and contingency measures;
- 2) All control strategies currently enforced will remain in effect;
- 3) The SIP revision shall include, to the extent possible, the provisions and protections afforded by Section 179b of the FCAAA;
- 4) That EPA approve the SIP Revisions submitted in 1994 and 1995 for O<sub>3</sub> and CO respectively; and
- 5) Requests for redesignation are pursued for each pollutant individually.

For the United States of America  
William Luthans, US EPA Region VI  
U.S. Co – Chair  
Signed 13 December, 2001

For the United Mexican States  
M.Sc. Sergio Snachez, SEMARNAT  
Mexican Co - Chair

**JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF AIR QUALITY**  
**COMITE CONSULTIVO CONJUNTO PARA EL MEJORAMIENTO DE LA CALIDAD DEL AIRE**  
**CD. JUAREZ, CHIHUAHUA / EL PASO, TEXAS / SUNLAND PARK, NEW MEXICO**

**Resolution on the Proposed Request by the State of Texas to the  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regarding Redesignation of El Paso, Texas  
as an Area Which Is in Attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)**

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WHEREAS the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) for the Improvement of Air Quality in the Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua / El Paso, Texas / Doña Ana County, New Mexico air basin (The Paso del Norte Air Basin) was established by the governments of the United States of America and the United States of México to promote measures which improve the air quality of the region, and

WHEREAS the Paso del Norte Air Basin, though considered by the JAC to be a common and unified air basin, is actually comprised of the three separate administrative jurisdictions governed by El Paso County and the State of Texas; Doña Ana County and the State of New Mexico; the Municipality of Juárez; and the State of Chihuahua and the federal government of México; each of which is subject to separate nonattainment classifications by their respective governments; and

WHEREAS, more specifically, within the United States the jurisdictions of El Paso County and Doña Ana County comprise separate areas of nonattainment under provisions of the Federal Clean Air Act; and

WHEREAS various portions of Doña Ana County have been separately classified as nonattainment for two criteria pollutants (ozone and Particulate Matter - PM10); and

WHEREAS the government of México considers the Municipality of Juárez to be a critical (zona Crítica) area for carbon monoxide, ozone and Particulate Matter - PM10; and

WHEREAS El Paso County has been designated as nonattainment for three criteria pollutants (carbon monoxide, ozone, and Particulate Matter - PM10); and

WHEREAS recent ambient air quality data indicate El Paso has attained the NAAQS for these three pollutants and is therefore eligible for consideration of redesignation to attainment of the NAAQS, and

WHEREAS the Clean Air Act of the United States requires that in order to redesignate El Paso County the State of Texas must request such redesignation by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and

WHEREAS consideration of such redesignation request will require the United States Environmental Protection Agency to analyze the pertinent air quality data and forecasts and to evaluate the effectiveness of the respective State Implementation Plans of the State of Texas, and will require the State of Texas to prepare maintenance plans to prevent deterioration of the air quality and contingency plans to be implemented in the event of deterioration, and

WHEREAS the Joint Advisory Committee for the Improvement of Air Quality sees great value in the analyses and evaluations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the JAC, that the State of Texas may submit requests for redesignation as are warranted by the ambient data, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that given the resources required to achieve redesignation, the JAC considers it advisable to seek redesignation for the pollutants individually, rather than collectively, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the JAC wishes to be included in the ambient air quality analysis and to be consulted as the State of Texas prepares the maintenance and contingency plans which must accompany the redesignation requests, and so, any plans and / or policies developed should be presented to the consideration of the JAC for its analysis and observations.

Sergio Sánchez, SEMARNAT

William Luthans, USEPA