



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JAN 20 2012

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Governor Perry:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today is completing area designations for the 2010 Primary Nitrogen Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard. Available air-monitoring data from 2008-10 show no violations of the standard within your area. Accordingly, the EPA is designating all of the area in Texas as "unclassifiable/attainment."

As you know, the EPA on January 22, 2010, strengthened the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for NO₂; it is now a new 1-hour standard of 100 parts per billion. Along with strengthening the NO₂ standard, the EPA required changes to the existing NO₂ monitoring network by requiring monitors in large urban areas and near major roads where the public might be exposed to unhealthy levels of NO₂.

The EPA and state and tribal agencies are currently working to establish an expanded network of NO₂ monitors, expected to be deployed in 2013. Once three years of air-quality data have been collected from the expanded network, the EPA will be better able to determine NO₂ air quality in additional locations.

Within two years of establishing a new or revised air-quality standard, the Clean Air Act requires the EPA to complete the process of designating areas as meeting or not meeting the standard. The EPA notified states and tribes of our preliminary responses to their recommendations for area designations on June 29, 2011. For additional information, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/airquality/nitrogenoxides/designations/>.

Ensuring that levels of NO₂ pollution remain below the 2010 standard is an important part of the EPA's commitment to a clean, healthy environment. NO₂ exposure can cause a range of adverse health effects, including increased asthma symptoms, more difficulty controlling asthma and an increase in respiratory illnesses and symptoms.

I appreciate the information that Texas shared with the EPA as we take this step to inform citizens about their air quality and continue our efforts to protect public health. We look forward to working with you and your staff to continue to protect air quality. If you have questions, please contact me or your staff may call Sarah Hospodor-Pallone, Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations, at 202-564-7178.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Jackson", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Lisa P. Jackson

Internet Address (URL) • <http://www.epa.gov>