



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

February 4, 2010

Alfredo Armendariz, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Dear Administrator Armendariz:

Pursuant to the requirements in Section 107(d)(3) of the Federal Clean Air Act and the October 8, 2009, letter from your office, enclosed is the recommendation for designation of areas in Texas with regard to the 1997 annual National Ambient Air Quality Standards for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}).

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) developed the enclosed recommendation and supporting data by considering currently available monitoring data in the Houston area from the 2006-2008 period. The State of Texas' recommendation also takes into account the 2009 data, which will be certified in accordance with the EPA requirements. TCEQ recommends that Harris County continue to be designated attainment.

TCEQ understands EPA plans to use the most recent three years of certified monitoring data as the basis for the designation. Additionally, TCEQ staff is available to work with you regarding the appropriate data submission for newly certified monitoring from calendar year 2009.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact TCEQ Chairman Dr. Bryan Shaw at (512) 239-5510.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RICK PERRY".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tbp

Enclosure

cc: Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., Chairman, TCEQ