TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

September 1, 2015

Mr. Guy Donaldson
Air Planning Section (6PD-L)
Environmental Protection Agency
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202–2733

Re: Docket No. EPA-R06-OAR-2015-0117

Federal Register, Vol. 80 No. 158 page 49187, August 17, 2015 Determination of Attainment; Texas; Houston-Galveston-Brazoria 1997 Ozone Nonattainment Area; Determination of Attainment of the 1997 Ozone Standard

Dear Mr. Donaldson:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed determination that the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) ozone nonattainment area is currently attaining the 1997 eight-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) via a Clean Data Determination (CDD). The TCEQ supports the EPA's CDD, which acknowledges that the HGB area is currently attaining the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard based on the most recent three years of quality-assured monitoring data (2012 through 2014) and preliminary 2015 monitoring data. The HGB area monitors have all had significant decreases in their ozone values. The eight-hour ozone design value in the HGB area has decreased nearly 33% over the past 24 years, from a design value of 119 ppb in 1990 to a design value of 80 ppb in 2014. Based on the redesignation substitute demonstration submitted to the EPA on August 18, 2015, the TCEQ expects that the HGB area will continue to attain the 1997 eight-hour ozone NAAQS through 2028.

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Steve Hagle, P.E., Deputy Director, Office of Air, at 512-239-1295 or steve.hagle@tceq.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Hyde, P.E.
Executive Director