



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200

DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 – 2733

Office of the Regional Administrator

December 28, 2018

Mr. Jon Niermann
Chairman
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Dear Chairman Niermann:

Thank you for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) exceptional events mitigation plan dated November 26, 2018. The EPA reviewed the TCEQ mitigation plan, determined that it is complete, and is providing the TCEQ notice pursuant to 40 CFR 51.930(b)(3)(ii).

Section 319(b) of the Clean Air Act authorizes the EPA to consider air agency requests to exclude air quality monitoring data that is directly due to exceptional events from use in determinations by the Administrator with respect to exceedances or violations of the NAAQS. All states having areas with historically documented or known seasonal exceptional events are required to develop an exceptional events mitigation plan. The EPA specifically identified El Paso and Harris Counties, Texas as subject to the mitigation requirements for PM_{2.5} due to the historic occurrence of exceptional events due to high winds and African dust, respectively. See Treatment of Data Influenced by Exceptional Events, 81 Fed. Reg. 68216, 68272-73 (Oct. 3, 2016).

We appreciate the TCEQ's efforts to develop this plan and its efforts to mitigate the impacts of exceptional events on the public. We look forward to continued engagement on exceptional events. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at (214) 665-2100 or your staff may contact Ms. Frances Verhalen at (214) 665-2172.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne L. Idsal".

Anne L. Idsal
Regional Administrator

cc: Mr. Toby Baker
Executive Director, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Ms. Tonya Baer
Deputy Director, Office of Air, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality