Governor Perry appointed Toby Baker to serve as a TCEQ commissioner effective April 16, 2012.


On March 14, 2012, the TCEQ submitted comments to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the proposed Implementation of the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone: Nonattainment Area Classifications Approach, Attainment Deadlines and Revocation of the 1997 Ozone Standards for Transportation Conformity. In these comments, the TCEQ:

- supports not applying Texas’ voluntary reclassification request for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) area for the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard to the area’s classification for the 2008 eight-hour ozone standard;
- supports the EPA’s preferred option of specifying the attainment date as a certain number of years from the end of the calendar year in which the area’s nonattainment designation is effective;
- supports proposed revocation of the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard for transportation conformity and other purposes; and
- requests that the EPA provide a timeline for other 1997 eight-hour ozone standard revocation actions.

These comments are available on the TCEQ National Comments Log - Comments Relating to Air Issues Web page (http://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/nc/Air_Issues.html#031412).

Key draft dates for 2008 ozone standard SIP development:

- EPA designations and classifications finalized: no later than May 31, 2012;
- EPA implementation rule finalized: Fall 2012;
- SIP development (modeling, if required/stakeholder participation: 2013;
- SIP documentation: Jan – July 2014;
- SIP revision proposal: Dec 2014;
- Public comment: Jan 2015;
- SIP revision adoption: June 2015; and
- SIP revision due to EPA: Aug 2015.

Please note that these dates are contingent on the EPA’s timeline and therefore, subject to change. These draft dates are for planning purposes only.

Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP)

- The Alternative Fueling Facilities Program grants are expected to open for applications in mid to late May. This program will be available for projects in the HGB, Dallas-Fort Worth,
and El Paso areas and will pay the lesser of $500,000 or 50% of eligible costs for fueling facilities to provide alternative fuels, including: electricity, compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, propane, hydrogen, and methanol.

- The Houston-Galveston Area Council’s additional funding request for a third-party grant to continue to provide sub-grants for TERP projects has been tentatively approved for $3 million. Contracting for the new third-party grant is pending adoption of revisions to the TERP guidelines in July 2012.

- Further information is available on the TERP Web site (http://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp). Contact: Steve Dayton (512) 239-6824.