UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270 – 2102

November 4, 2020

Mr. Richard C. Chism
Director, Monitoring Division (MC 165)
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Post Office Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Dear Mr. Chism:

We appreciate the request for clarification about our correspondence dated October 22, 2020, in response to the Texas 2020 Annual Monitoring Network Plan (2020 Plan) for ambient air. We received a question via email about the particulate matter (PM) monitor at the Ascarate Park site in the El Paso area from Ms. Holly Landuyt on October 27, 2020.

Regarding the PM monitor at Ascarate Park, the TCEQ's request to replace the existing older PM monitor with better technology is approved. Specifically, in the 2020 Plan, the TCEQ recommended to replace the aging $PM_{2.5}$ non-NAAQS comparable TEOM with an FEM continuous monitor (AQS ID 48-141-0055); this request is approved. Last year, in the 2019 Plan the TCEQ had requested to discontinue this monitor, however that proposal was not approved because at that time the Ascarate Park site had the highest 3-year average $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations for the area. We apologize for any confusion in our 2020 Plan response letter.

We look forward to our continued partnership with the TCEQ on our common goals to establish and maintain a successful monitoring network for the state of Texas. If you have any questions, please contact me at (214) 665-7593, or your staff may contact Ms. Frances Verhalen, Air Monitoring and Grants Section Chief at (214) 665-2172.

Sincerely,

11/4/2020

X

David F. Garcia

Signed by: DAVID GARCIA

Director
Air and Radiation Division