



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

Office of the Regional Administrator

July 1, 2021

Ms. Tonya Baer
Director, Office of Air
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Dear Ms. Baer:

Thank you for your March 23, 2021 letter submitting the “Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) Milestone Compliance Demonstration for the 2020 Calendar Year” (“2020 Milestone Compliance Demonstration”). The 2020 Milestone Compliance Demonstration provides Texas’ demonstration that the Clean Air Act 2020 emission reductions milestone has been met for Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) and Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) ozone nonattainment areas. The applicable milestone emission reductions were identified in the state implementation plan (SIP) revisions to fulfill reasonable further progress (RFP) requirements for the DFW and HGB 2008 eight-hour ozone NAAQS Serious nonattainment areas (“2008 ozone RFP SIP”). Section 182(g)(2) of the Clean Air Act requires the State to submit a milestone compliance demonstration no later than 90 days after each milestone date. The 2008 ozone RFP SIP provides information on the applicable milestone emission reductions to be met by the January 1, 2021 milestone date for the 2008 eight-hour ozone NAAQS in the DFW and HGB areas.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that the 2020 Milestone Compliance Demonstration is adequate to establish that the January 1, 2021 milestone emission reductions have been met. The basis for EPA’s determination is set forth in the enclosed document. This determination is based on the EPA’s review of information contained in TCEQ’s 2008 ozone RFP SIP submission provided on May 13, 2020, and the 2020 Milestone Compliance Demonstration and serves as an acknowledgement that Texas has provided an objective evaluation of emission reductions from baseline levels as provided by the 2008 ozone RFP SIP. EPA’s determination of adequacy for the 2020 Milestone Compliance Demonstration is not a statement on the attainment status of the DFW and HGB areas. Additionally, this determination of adequacy does not constitute an approval of any component of the 2008 ozone RFP SIP. The EPA approved all but the contingency measure element of the 2008 ozone RFP SIP portion applicable to the HGB area on May 10, 2021, (86 FR 24717) and has proposed approval of the 2008 ozone RFP SIP portion applicable to the DFW area including the contingency measure element (85 FR 64084, October 9, 2020).

While we are pleased that this important milestone has been met, we recognize that additional emissions reductions are needed for these areas to attain and maintain the ozone air quality standards as ozone concentrations continue to be measured above the standard. We look forward to continuing our work with your agency to further improve air quality in Texas. If you have any questions, please contact

David Garcia, Air and Radiation Division Director, at (214) 665-7593, or your staff may contact Jeff Riley at (214) 665-8542.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David W. Gray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Gray" clearly legible.

David W. Gray
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure: EPA's Evaluation of the
2020 Milestone Compliance Demonstration

cc: Donna Huff
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality