Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., Chairman Buddy Garcia, Commissioner Carlos Rubinstein, Commissioner Mark R. Vickery, P.G., Executive Director



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

August 31, 2011

Guy Donaldson Chief, Air Planning Section U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200 Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Dear Mr. Donaldson:

This letter is being sent to provide clarification on comments included in a June 28, 2011, letter from Dr. Armendariz to Governor Perry regarding nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) designation recommendations. Governor Perry submitted NO₂ designation recommendations to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on January 22, 2011 (Attachment 1). These recommendations included a designation of attainment for 17 counties in Texas with regulatory monitors and a designation recommendation of unclassifiable for all other areas in the state. In the June 28, 2011, letter from Dr. Armendariz to Governor Perry (Attachment 2), the EPA indicates that you intend to designate Texas as unclassifiable/attainment. This same letter also cautions that "your state carefully consider the implications for the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permitting program of having the entire state designated as a single area rather than smaller areas."

We understand that you are interpreting our designation recommendation as requesting a "rest of state" designation, which you would interpret in accordance with 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 81.300. The purpose of this letter is to clarify that we are not suggesting or indicating that the entire State of Texas be a single air quality planning area or region for NO₂. In fact, the state recommendation was specific to the county level in designating areas that measured attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (Attachment 3). The recommendation letter stated that other areas of the state should be considered unclassifiable. Please consider this letter as our request to clarify our designation recommendation to be specific to each county level individually, as attached. Additionally, if the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality were in the future to identify an area not measuring attainment of the standard, any recommended nonattainment boundary would be appropriate for that specific designation and purpose and may be larger or smaller than an individual county.

If you would like to discuss this issue further or desire additional information or clarification, please contact me at (512) 239-1725 or Donna Huff, Air Quality Planning Section Manager, at (512) 239-6628.

Sincerely,

David Brymer, Director Air Quality Division

Kellena Ju David Byme

Enclosures



STATE OF TEXAS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY GOVERNOR

January 22, 2011

Mr. Lawrence E. Starfield Administrator Deputy Regional Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200 Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Dear Administrator Starfield:

I am pleased to inform you that Texas continues to make progress with our air quality. Since 2000, Texans have seen a 53 percent reduction in industrial sources of nitrogen oxide emissions and a 27 percent reduction in ozone, both outpacing the national average. The Houston area recently met the eight-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone for the first time, while the Dallas/Fort Worth area is within one part per billion of meeting the standard.

Pursuant to the requirements in Section 107(d)(3) of the Federal Clean Air Act, enclosed is the recommendation for designation of areas in Texas with regard to the 2010 one-hour primary nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) NAAQS of 100 parts per billion.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) recommends that all counties in Texas with applicable NO₂ monitoring data (see Attachment A) be designated attainment and all other areas be designated as unclassifiable/attainment, based on the three most recent years of quality-assured air data from the current monitoring network for the years 2007-2009.

Enclosed is a resolution, with 2009 supporting data, containing the 2010 NO₂ NAAQS designation recommendation.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact TCEQ Chairman Bryan Shaw at (512) 239-5510.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry Governor

RP:tbpg

Enclosures

-cc: Bryan-W. Shaw, Ph.D., Chairman, TCEQ-

Attachment A

Design Values by County for NO₂

County	EPA 2006-2008 Design Values (average 98th percentile) ppb	EPA 2007-2009 Design Values (average 98th percentile) ppb
El Paso	67	65
Harris	62	54
Tarrant	60	54
Dallas	58	55
Bexar	54	52
Ellis	45	44
Jefferson	42	41
Brazoria	38	37
Denton	37	35
Montgomery	36	35
Orange	36	. 34
Hunt	32	30
Kaufman	31	30
Gregg	30	. 31
Travis	26	24
Smith	23	21
Harrison	21	19

Source: EPA's Air Quality System database (http://www.epa.gov/ttn/airs/airsaqs)

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., Chairman Buddy Garcia, Commissioner Carlos Rubinstein, Commissioner Mark R. Vickery, P.G., Executive Director



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution
December 1, 2010

The Honorable Rick Perry Governor of Texas State Capitol P. O. Box 12428 Austin, TX 78711-2428

Dear Governor Perry:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revised the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) to 100 parts per billion for the one-hour standard on January 22, 2010. Section 107(d)(3) of the Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA) requires the governor of each state to submit to the EPA a list of all areas with a designation recommendation of attainment, nonattainment, or unclassifiable.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) recommends that all counties in Texas with applicable NO₂ monitoring data be designated attainment and all other areas be designated as unclassifiable/attainment, based on the three most recent years of quality-assured air data from the current monitoring network for the years 2007 through 2009.

Because the EPA is also requiring a new monitoring network as part of the revised NO₂ NAAQS, it is possible that the EPA will exercise its authority under the FCAA, §107(d)(3) to redesignate areas from unclassifiable/attainment to attainment or nonattainment after the state has collected three years of near-road monitoring data, beginning in January 2013.

Enclosed are a resolution, cover letter, and attachment containing the designation recommendation for your signature to be submitted to the EPA by the January 22, 2011, deadline.

If I can be of any assistance, please contact me at 512-239-5510.

Sincerely.

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D Chairman

Enclosures

cc: Toby Baker, Office of Budget, Planning and Policy, Office of the Governor Mark R. Vickery, P.G., Executive Director, TCEQ

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTATH QUARTED PTEXAS



Thereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality document, which is filed in the permanent records of the Commission. Given under my hand and the seal of office on

LaDonna Castanuela, Chief Clerk Texas Commission on Ehvironmental Quality

Resolution Concerning Nitrogen Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard Designations

2010-1496-RES

WHEREAS, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (Commission) met on November 18, 2010, to discuss and consider designation recommendations for the 2010 one-hour primary nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for submittal to the Governor for his consideration and transmittal to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

WHEREAS, the Commission finds that the EPA revised the NO₂NAAQS effective April 12, 2010, establishing a new one-hour primary NO₂NAAQS at 100 parts per billion (ppb); and

WHEREAS, the Commission acknowledges that the Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA), \S 107(d), requires the EPA, after the promulgation of a new or revised NAAQS, to designate areas as attainment, nonattainment, or unclassifiable; and

WHEREAS, the Commission acknowledges that the FCAA, § 107(d), also establishes a process for each Governor to provide recommendations to the EPA regarding appropriate designations for the new one-hour primary NO₂ NAAQS for their state, including appropriate geographic boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Commission acknowledges that the EPA has specified a deadline for the submittal of recommended designations for the new one-hour primary NO₂ NAAQS of January 22, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Commission acknowledges that the EPA recommends States identify areas not in compliance with the new or revised NAAQS using the most recent three years of air quality data, preferably data from calendar years 2007 through 2009, stored in the EPA Air Quality System (AQS,) from Federal Reference Method and Federal Equivalent Method monitors that are sited and operated in accordance with 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 58; and

WHEREAS, the Commission finds that based on AQS monitoring data from 2007 through 2009, all monitors in Texas with data eligible for companison to the new one-hour primary NO₂ NAAQS meet the revised NAAQS (Attachment A); and

RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby requests the Governor of Texas to submit a designation recommendation of attainment for all areas of the state with EPA's Air Quality System monitors demonstrating that the 2010 one-hour primary NO₂ NAAQS and that the rest of the State be designated as unclassifiable/attainment for the 2010 one-hour primary NO₂ NAAQS to the EPA for consideration, along with data analysis supporting this recommendation, by the EPA's requested deadline of January 22, 2011.

Issued date: NOV 2 2 2010

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., Chairman



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6 1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200 DALLAS TX 75202-2733

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The Honorable Rick Perry Governor of Texas Post Office Box 12428 Austin, Texas 78711

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Commissioners' Offices

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your recommendations on air quality designations for the revised primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) throughout Texas. This letter is to notify you of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) response to Texas' designation recommendations, and to inform you of our approach for completing the designations for the revised NO₂ NAAQS.

On January 22, 2010, the EPA strengthened the health-based NAAQS for NO₂ by setting a new 1-hour NO₂ standard at the level of 100 parts per billion (ppb). This new standard will protect against adverse health effects associated with short-term exposure to NO₂, including respiratory effects that can result in admission to a hospital. The EPA also retained, with no change, the annual average NO₂ standard of 53 ppb. This set of standards will protect public health by limiting exposures to short-term peak concentrations of NO₂ and by limiting community-wide NO₂ concentrations to levels below those that have been linked to respiratory-related emergency department visits and hospital admissions in the United States. To determine compliance with the new standard, the EPA established new ambient air monitoring and reporting requirements for NO₂. In urban areas, monitors are required near major roads as well as in other locations where maximum concentrations are expected. Additional monitors will be required in some large urban areas to measure the highest concentrations of NO₂ that occur more broadly across communities.

In the preamble to the 2010 NO₂ NAAQS and in the EPA's October 2010 letter to you requesting designation recommendations, the EPA stated that it expected to designate most areas of the country as "unclassifiable," indicating that there are insufficient data to determine whether or not an area is attaining the revised NO₂ NAAQS. This approach took into account that the new monitoring network requirements established with the revised NO₂ NAAQS will not be effective until January 2013 and that air quality data from these new monitors would not be available for these initial designations.

The EPA has reviewed your recommendations and others, and intends to designate all areas of Texas, as well as the rest of the country, as "unclassifiable/attainment" rather than "unclassifiable." Based on air quality data from 2008-2010, all monitored areas in the country meet the 2010 NO₂ NAAQS. While the EPA acknowledges that the existing NO₂ monitoring network does not provide adequate evidence to

determine whether or not the new NAAQS is met in all areas, there is currently no evidence of violations anywhere in the country. The "unclassifiable/attainment" designation better reflects the current air quality conditions. The EPA intends to redesignate areas, as appropriate, after sufficient air quality details from the new monitoring network are available.

The EPA intends to designate Texas unclassifiable/attainment using the boundaries Texas recommended to the EPA or revised boundaries you may provide in response to this letter. In past designations for NO₂, for the majority of states, the area of the state where the air quality could not be classified, or was better than the national standards, was given a statewide, or rest-of-state designation. However, the EPA recommends that your state carefully consider the implications for the Prevention of Significant Deterioration permitting program of having the entire state designated as a single area rather than smaller areas (e.g., counties, groups of counties, etc.). To ensure that the size of designated areas is consistent with your state's objectives for managing air quality deterioration and economic growth, we recommend that your permitting staff be consulted on the area boundary issues.

If your state has additional information that you want the EPA to consider with respect to the EPA's designation, please submit it to us by August 29, 2011. We are also making the EPA's preliminary designation decisions and supporting documentation available to the general public for review. We are accepting public comments on our preliminary decisions for 30 days after a notice announcing the public comment period is published in the *Federal Register*. We will review any information we receive from the State of Texas and the general public by this date, and we plan to promulgate the final designations by October 31, 2011.

We look forward to a continued dialogue with you and your staff as we work together to implement the 2010 NO₂ NAAQS. If you have any questions, please contact me at (214) 665-2100, or your staff may contact Mr. Guy Donaldson of my staff at (214) 665-7242.

Sincerely,

Al Armendariz

Regional Administrator

cc: Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D.

Chairman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Mark Vickery, P.G.

Executive Director, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Designation Recommendations by Texas County for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

County	Recommendation
Anderson	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Andrews	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Angelina	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Aransas	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Archer	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Armstrong	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Atascosa	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Austin	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Bailey	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Bandera	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Bastrop	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Baylor	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Bee	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Bell	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Bexar	Attainment
Blanco	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Borden	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Bosque	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Bowie	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Brazoria	Attainment
Brazos	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Brewster	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Briscoe	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Brooks	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Brown	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Burleson	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Burnet	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Caldwell	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Calhoun	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Callahan	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Cameron	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Camp	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Carson	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Cass	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Castro	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Chambers	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Cherokee	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Childress	Unclassifiable/Attainment

County	Recommendation
Clay	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Cochran	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Coke	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Coleman	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Collin	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Collingsworth	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Colorado	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Comal	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Comanche	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Concho	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Cooke	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Coryell	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Cottle	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Crane	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Crockett	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Crosby	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Culberson	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Dallam	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Dallas	Attainment
Dawson	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Deaf Smith	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Delta	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Denton	Attainment
DeWitt	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Dickens	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Dimmit	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Donley	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Duval	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Eastland	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Ector	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Edwards	Unclassifiable/Attainment
El Paso	Attainment
Ellis	Attainment
Erath	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Falls	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Fannin	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Fayette	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Fisher	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Floyd	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Foard	Unclassifiable/Attainment

County	Recommendation
Fort Bend	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Franklin	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Freestone	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Frio	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Gaines	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Galveston	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Garza	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Gillespie	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Glasscock	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Goliad	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Gonzales	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Gray	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Grayson	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Gregg	Attainment
Grimes	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Guadalupe	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Hale	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Hall	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Hamilton	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Hansford	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Hardeman	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Hardin	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Harris	Attainment
Harrison	Attainment
Hartley	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Haskell	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Hays	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Hemphill	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Henderson	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Hidalgo	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Hill	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Hockley	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Hood	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Hopkins	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Houston	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Howard	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Hudspeth	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Hunt	Attainment
Hutchinson	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Irion	Unclassifiable/Attainment

County	Recommendation
Jack	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Jackson	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Jasper	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Jeff Davis	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Jefferson	Attainment
Jim Hogg	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Jim Wells	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Johnson	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Jones	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Karnes	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Kaufman	Attainment
Kendall	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Kenedy	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Kent	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Kerr	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Kimble	Unclassifiable/Attainment
King	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Kinney	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Kleberg	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Knox	Unclassifiable/Attainment
La Salle	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Lamar	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Lamb	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Lampasas	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Lavaca	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Lee	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Leon	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Liberty	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Limestone	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Lipscomb	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Live Oak	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Llano	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Loving	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Lubbock	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Lynn	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Madison	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Marion	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Martin	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Mason	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Matagorda	Unclassifiable/Attainment

County	Recommendation
Maverick	Unclassifiable/Attainment
McCulloch	Unclassifiable/Attainment
McLennan	Unclassifiable/Attainment
McMullen	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Medina	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Menard	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Midland	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Milam	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Mills	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Mitchell	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Montague	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Montgomery	Attainment
Moore	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Morris	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Motley	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Nacogdoches	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Navarro	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Newton	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Nolan	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Nueces	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Ochiltree	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Oldham	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Orange	Attainment
Palo Pinto	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Panola	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Parker	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Parmer	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Pecos	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Polk	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Potter	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Presidio	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Rains	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Randall	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Reagan	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Real	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Red River	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Reeves	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Refugio	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Roberts	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Robertson	Unclassifiable/Attainment

County	Recommendation
Rockwall	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Runnels	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Rusk	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Sabine	Unclassifiable/Attainment
San Augustine	Unclassifiable/Attainment
San Jacinto	Unclassifiable/Attainment
San Patricio	Unclassifiable/Attainment
San Saba	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Schleicher	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Scurry	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Shackelford	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Shelby	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Sherman	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Smith	Attainment
Somervell	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Starr	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Stephens	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Sterling	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Stonewall	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Sutton	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Swisher	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Tarrant	Attainment
Taylor	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Terrell	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Terry	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Throckmorton	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Titus	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Tom Green	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Travis	Attainment
Trinity	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Tyler	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Upshur	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Upton	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Uvalde	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Val Verde	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Van Zandt	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Victoria	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Walker	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Waller	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Ward	Unclassifiable/Attainment

Attachment 3

County	Recommendation
Washington	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Webb	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Wharton	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Wheeler	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Wichita	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Wilbarger	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Willacy	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Williamson	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Wilson	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Winkler	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Wise	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Wood	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Yoakum	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Young	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Zapata	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Zavala	Unclassifiable/Attainment