



IMPERIAL CALCASIEU

REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

July 11, 2012

Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS)
Attention: Laura Bunte – Ozone Advance Program C304-01
109 TW Alexander Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

RE: Notice of Intent of Join Ozone Advance Program
Imperial Calcasieu Regional Planning & Development Commission (IMCAL)

Dear Ms. Bunte:

Please accept this letter as our Notice of Intent and request to be accepted into the EPA's Ozone Advance Program. The Imperial Calcasieu Regional Planning & Development Commission represents the Parishes of Calcasieu and Cameron within the State of Louisiana, which are within our Metro Statistical Area (MSA). Our mission is the continued growth and development of Southwest Louisiana. We provide "hands on" technical assistance to local government, business, and individuals.

Our area of the state is monitored for the pollutant ozone at the following locations:

Lake Charles	220190002 – Carlyss Site 220190009 – Vinton Site 220190008 – Westlake Site
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At the present time, our area is currently designated as attainment for the pollutant ozone. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality continues to input required emission inventory information into the National Emissions

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Inventory System (NEI) for all relevant point sources within the boundaries of our MSA. We believe that our current attainment status makes us a worthy candidate for the Ozone Advance Program.

We wish to work proactively with business and community leaders to identify and implement programs that result in cleaner air for our citizens. It would benefit us to make every reasonable effort to avoid a future non-attainment designation. In addition to the health concerns (and stigma) associated with such a designation, there are tremendous economic impacts. Stricter permitting and emissions requirements imposed when an area is designated as non-attainment will make it more difficult for us to attract new industry and stifle existing industries wishing to expand. As you know, new regulations and requirements could also increase the cost of gasoline and other goods and services – costs that our communities will be forced to bear.

During the course of the next year, we will be using our best efforts to develop a plan of action. We believe that we can establish a committee to explore action plan activities. We want to move quickly toward identifying steps that may reduce ozone levels within our area. It is our intention (i.e. Calcasieu Parish, Cameron Parish, City of Lake Charles, City of Westlake, City of Sulphur, City of Vinton, Town of Iowa, City of DeQuincy, Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District, Chennault International Airport, Lake Area Industrial Alliance, Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance, and Chamber SWLA) to implement programs and measures as soon as possible so that we can begin collecting information as to our plan's effectiveness.

We look forward to receiving notification that we have been accepted into the Ozone Advance Program. Please contact me at 337-433-1771 or gbush@imcal.org should you require further information regarding this matter.

Sincerely

Grant L. Bush
Interim Executive Director

Cc: DEQ Air Permits Division
Mr. Michael Vince
Mr. Dennis Scott
Ms. Tina Horn
Mayor Randy Roach
Mayor Dan Cupit
Mayor Chris Duncan
Mayor Kenneth Stinson
Mayor Carol Ponthieux

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Mr. George Swift