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Executive Director, RPC

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 to Join Ozone Advance Program
Regional Planning Commission

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 Regional Planning Commission represents the Parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany, within the State of Louisiana. The Regional Planning Commission is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the above parishes and represents the urbanized areas of New Orleans, Slidell, and Mandeville-Covington Louisiana.

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

New Orleans	220710012 – City Park Site 220930002 – Convent Site 220890003 – Hahnville Site 220511001 – Kenner Site 221030002 - Madisonville Site 220870004 – Meraux 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 Inventory System (NEI) for all relevant point sources within the boundaries of our Metropolitan Statistical Area (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.

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REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT CENTER
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Executive Director, RPC

During the course of the next year, we will be using our best efforts to develop a plan of action. We want to move quickly toward identifying steps that may reduce ozone levels within our area. It is our intent 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 Jeff Roesel at (504) 483-8528 or jroesel@norpc.org should you require further information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Walter R. Brooks
Executive Director
Regional Planning Commission

cc: DEQ Air Permits Division

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