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MARY FALLIN

Governor

STEVEN A. THOMPSON
Executive Director

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

October 30, 2012

Ozone Advance
Laura Bunte, Mail Code C3404-01
USEPA, OAQPS
109 TW Alexander Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

Dear Ms. Bunte:

I am respectfully requesting the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) be accepted to participate as the lead agency in EPA's new Ozone Advance Program for the Tulsa Metropolitan Area. This region is an ideal candidate for the program in that it is presently designated as attainment with the current ozone standard; it possesses five strategically placed state operated quality controlled ozone monitors, and it has been subjected to a thorough state compiled emissions inventory, meeting all submittal requirements.

Tulsa, like Oklahoma City, which previously elected to participate in Ozone Advance also finds itself in the precarious position of having technically violated the ozone standard when considering data collected in 2009, 2010, and 2011, and now also in 2010, 2011, and 2012. Consequently, we feel participation in the Ozone Advance Program may offer the area a unique opportunity to obtain meaningful emissions reductions providing health benefits to our citizens, while possibly precluding a future non-attainment designation.

Tulsa has a long history of participating in successful voluntary ozone reduction programs. Our Tulsa based metropolitan planning organization, The Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG), established the first ozone alert program in the nation and has worked closely on this activity with the industry, the public, and the media for 22 years. Surveys have been conducted in the area indicating that nearly 80% of the public in this region are aware of the Ozone Alert! Program. INCOG and ODEQ have also participated in the Flexible Attainment Region Program, the 1-hour Ozone Flex Program, the Early Action Compact initiative and the 8-hour Ozone Flex Program. Continuing the goals these programs should provide an appropriate transition to Ozone Advance. ODEQ also support active Ozone Alert and Health Advisory Programs.

We look forward to working with our stakeholders and your agency on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Beverly Bolchlet-Smith

for Eddie Terrill
Division Director
Air Quality Division

ET:dgc

cc: Carrie Paige, EPA
Rich Brierre, INCOG

