

July 06, 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 to support our MPO region in regards to the Ozone Advance Program  
Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization

Dear Ms. Bunte:

Please accept this letter as our Notice of Intent to support our Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) region in regards to their request to be accepted into the EPA's Ozone Advance Program. The Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization (HTMPO) represents the Parishes of Terrebonne, Lafourche, and Assumption within the State of Louisiana. Our mission is to have a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process that results in plans, programs, and projects that consider all transportation modes and support metropolitan community and economic development and social goals.

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

Thibodaux	220570004 – Thibodaux 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 planning district. 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 support their efforts in identifying and implementing 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 support our parishes in their development of a plan of action. We look forward to assisting our parishes identify steps that may reduce ozone levels within our area.

We look forward to receiving notification that our letter of support in regards to the Ozone Advance Program has been received. Please contact Kevin Belanger at 985-851-2900 or kevin@scpdc.org should you require further information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Kevin Belanger  
CEO, South Central Planning and Development Commission

Cc: DEQ Air Permits Division