

Thursday, June 21, 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 Join Ozone Advance Program  
South Central Planning & Development 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 South Central Planning & Development Commission represents the Parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and Terrebonne within the State of Louisiana. Our mission is to help member parishes and municipalities to plan for the future.

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

Thibodaux	220570004 – Thibodaux Site
Garyville (St. James)	220950002 – Garyville Site

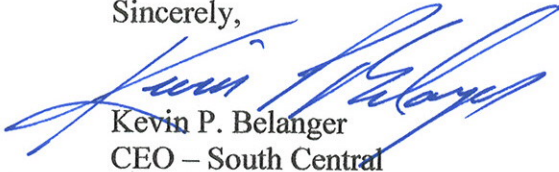
At the present time, our area is currently designated as attainment for the pollutant ozone. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality continues to input required emission inventory information into the National Emissions Inventory System (NEI) for all relevant point sources within the boundaries of our MSA and the region of South Central Planning & Development Commission. 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 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 Kevin Belanger, CEO at (985) 851-2900 or kevin@scpdc.org should you require further information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Kevin P. Belanger  
CEO – South Central

cc: DEQ Air Permits Division