



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

JAN 05 2010



The Honorable Samuel Biscoe
Travis County Judge
Chair, Central Texas Clean Air Coalition
Capital Area Council of Governments
6800 Burleson Road, Suite 165
Austin, TX 78744

Dear Judge Biscoe:

We received your request to reduce the reporting frequency for the Austin-Round Rock 8-Hour Ozone Flex (8-O3Flex) Program. We appreciate the area's continuing commitment to this voluntary program to reduce the concentration of ground-level ozone in the Austin-Round Rock area.

Per the 8-Hour Ozone Flex guidance,¹ "If an area's design value is maintained at 80 [parts per billion] ppb or lower, or if an area's design value is not increasing or is on the decline each year, the area may request approval from EPA to submit reports annually, following submittal of the first semi-annual report." The Austin-Round Rock 8-O3Flex Program submitted their first program report in December, 2008. The 2006-2008 ozone design value for the Austin-Round Rock area is 77 ppb and the preliminary design value for 2007-2009 is 75 ppb. The area submitted a second 8-O3Flex Program report in June 2009.

The Austin-Round Rock area meets the 8-O3Flex program requirements that would allow the area to submit their 8-O3Flex program reports annually. We request that the next report, which will be the first annual report, be submitted by June 2010, since the last report was submitted in June 2009.

As your letter indicated, we are reviewing the 2008 8-hour ozone standard. At this time, the rulemaking concerning the reconsideration of the 2008 8-hour standard is scheduled for signature on January 6, 2010. Once that rulemaking has been announced, we will be working to understand and communicate the potential impacts within the Region 6 states and tribes. We appreciate that the Austin-Round Rock area plans to remain committed to their 8-O3Flex program plan.

¹ See the 8-Hour Ozone Flex Program guidance, section E (Schedules and Reporting), p. 11.

We applaud the work of the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition (CAC), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the other signatories and stakeholders of the Austin-Round Rock 8-O3Flex program. Your actions to improve air quality, including invitations to additional cities and independent school districts to join the program, and the "Big Push" effort during the 2009 ozone season, are making a difference in air quality and setting examples of successful teamwork. We look forward to continuing collaboration with the CAC and TCEQ staff in improving air quality and implementing this program.

Should you have questions, please contact me at (214) 665-7242, or your staff may contact Ms. Carrie Paige at (214) 665-6521 of my staff.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Carrie Paige in cursive script.

Guy Donaldson
Chief
Air Planning Section

cc: Kim Herndon
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Bill Gill
Capital Area Council of Governments