



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27711

APR - 1 2010

OFFICE OF
AIR QUALITY PLANNING
AND STANDARDS

The Honorable Ronnie McDonald
Bastrop County Judge
804 Pecan Street
Bastrop, Texas 78602

Dear Judge McDonald:

Thank you for your March 8, 2010, letter to Administrator Jackson with your comments on the proposed changes to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone. Your letter recounts the initiatives that Bastrop County has taken to improve air quality. We applaud your efforts and commitment to achieving clean air. The comment period closed on the proposed ozone NAAQS on March 22, 2010. We will address comments you have submitted during the comment period, and we will make every effort to review comments submitted after the comment period as the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) moves to finalize a decision on the level of the NAAQS.

You also requested that the Early Action Compact (EAC) voluntary emissions reduction model continue to be supported by EPA and be an allowable compliance option. While the Agency does not have plans to proceed with an EAC process for these new ozone standards, we are continuing to actively work with states and communities to pursue clean air goals. EPA does anticipate offering an option similar to the Ozone Flex program in which you currently participate. EPA will provide guidance on the details of this program in the near future. The air planning staff in Region 6 can assist Texas with this and other approaches to help reduce your state's air emissions and maintain your attainment status. EPA is committed to work with stakeholders and communities to determine the best way forward to achieve emission reductions as early as practicable and continue making progress in attaining and maintaining the ozone standard.

Again, thank you for your letter. I appreciate the opportunity to be of service and trust the information provided is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen D. Page".

Stephen D. Page

Director

Office of Air Quality Planning
and Standards