

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

July 1, 2003

Mr. Richard E. Greene
Regional Administrator
US EPA Region 6 (6RA)
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

RE: State of Louisiana
Recommendations for Designation of 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Areas

Dear Mr. Greene:

This letter provides the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the State of Louisiana's recommendations for the designation of parishes not achieving the 8-hour ozone air quality standards. This recommendation is an update to the state's previous recommendations of June 30, 2000 and is being made in accordance with the extension provided in the memorandum released by the EPA entitled "*Extension for States and Tribes to Submit Air Quality Designation Recommendations for the 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)*" dated February 27, 2003.

The parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston and West Baton Rouge are recommended for designation as nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone NAAQS. These recommendations are based upon air quality monitoring data for 2000-2002 ozone seasons. Federal Reference Methods were employed and the data are quality-assured, certified and entered into EPA's Air Quality System.

Jefferson Parish will require review based on the data for the current ozone season. This parish has an 8-hour design value of 85 ppb for the 2000-2002 ozone seasons. However, it is not included in Louisiana's recommendations for nonattainment designation at this time as this parish is expected to be in attainment with the 8-hour ozone NAAQS at the end of this ozone season. The State commits to submit the first three quarters of quality-assured, certified 2003 ozone data timely in accordance with EPA guidance. This data submitted will allow the state and EPA to evaluate any changes in ozone design value as a result of the 2003 monitoring data.

Should the state need to revise the recommended designations based upon 2003 air quality data, we will submit as soon as practicable the specific boundaries for the revised nonattainment areas, supporting air quality data and any other documentation supporting the revised proposal, including an assessment of factors identified in EPA's earlier guidance if the designation recommendation is other than the presumptive boundary of a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Please contact Robert P. Hannah, Deputy Secretary, at 225-219-3840 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Hall Bohlinger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

L. Hall Bohlinger
Secretary

c: Carl E. Edlund, Division Director
Multi-Media Planning and Permitting Division