

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dr. Al Armendariz, Regional Administrator
US EPA Region 6 (6-RA)
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

RE: EPA's preliminary response to Louisiana's recommendations and designations for the revised ozone standard – Letter dated December 9, 2011

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) was created in 1984 and continues to strive to provide services to the people of Louisiana through comprehensive environmental protection in order to promote and protect health, safety and welfare while considering sound policies regarding employment and economic development. The Louisiana Environmental Quality Act, La.R.S.30.2001, *et seq.*, (the Act) grants the secretary of the LDEQ specific authority to adopt, amend, or repeal those rules and regulations that are deemed necessary for the protection of the state's environment. Further, the Act provides the secretary with the general power to assure compliance with applicable federal laws and regulations and to assume authority for those delegated programs that exist under the provisions of the Clean Air Act Amendments. On February 22, 2010, I was delegated authority to submit documents to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on behalf of the state by Governor Bobby Jindal.

The LDEQ agrees with EPA's recommendation for the revised ozone standard. Based on the 2008-2010 certified ozone monitoring data, Louisiana has one monitor exceeding the 2008 ozone NAAQS of 75 ppb located in East Baton Rouge Parish. Historical and current analyses indicate that nonattainment in East Baton Rouge is contributed to by significant sources of ozone precursors in the surrounding parishes of Ascension, Iberville, Livingston and West Baton Rouge. The LDEQ is confident that the EPA has chosen the appropriate approach for recommending parishes for nonattainment in Louisiana.

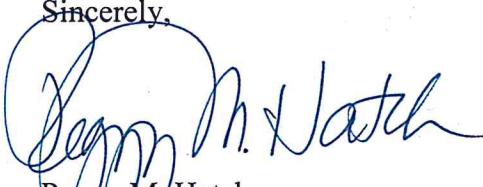
Louisiana further appreciates the time and attention paid to the weight-of-evidence-analysis evaluation that was based on the five factor approach when determining nonattainment area boundaries. The consideration of quality assured air quality data, emissions inventories, meteorology, geography and topology, and jurisdictional boundaries is certainly necessary to provide a science-based boundary.

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Comment Letter on Designations for Ozone NAAQS

The state of Louisiana through its agency, the LDEQ, looks forward to continue working with the EPA on area designations for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS. Should you have any questions concerning this submittal, please contact Timothy Bergeron at (225) 219-3410 or Vivian Aucoin at (225) 219-3389.

Sincerely,



Peggy M. Hatch,
Secretary

February 22, 2012
Date

PMH/vha