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PEGGY M. HATCH
SECRETARY

C.P.

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Mr. Kevin P. Belanger, CEO
South Central Planning & Development Commission
P. O. Box 1870
Gray, Louisiana 70359

RE: The 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ozone and the Ozone Advance Program

Dear Mr. Belanger:

I am writing to you at this time to ask for your assistance in organizing a stakeholder's meeting to discuss the impact of the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) in your area. Final designations were signed on May 1, 2012 and will become effective in July 2012. With a more stringent NAAQS at 75 ppb of ozone, most metropolitan areas in the state are currently near non-attainment. We expect EPA to make the standard more stringent at the next review in 2013.

The EPA's Ozone Advance Program holds potential benefits for all near non-attainment areas in a number of ways. Areas that participate in the Ozone Advance Program will be better positioned to avoid a non-attainment designation in the future. However, a letter from each area indicating their participation in this Program must be submitted to EPA before the designations become final in mid-July.

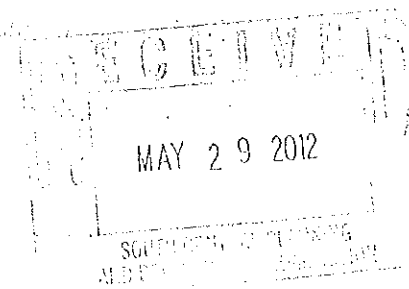
We are requesting your assistance in organizing a meeting with any governmental entity (parish or municipal), industrial and public association representatives to explore the options in your area. Because of the relatively short time frame involved, we felt that your organization was in the best position to identify potential participants.

DEQ staff will provide a brief presentation to explain the current status of air quality in your region and lead a discussion on how participation in the Ozone Advance Program could benefit your area. Your assistance is crucial to being able to hold such a meeting and it is greatly appreciated. Please contact Mr. Gilberto Cuadra at (225) 219-3419 or Mr. Michael Vince at (225) 219-3482 to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Sam L. Phillips in black ink.

Sam L. Phillips
Assistant Secretary
SLP:MV



May 22, 2012
Date