



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS TX 75202-2733

December 20, 2017

The Honorable John Bel Edwards
Governor of State of Louisiana
PO Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Edwards:

Thank you for your letter dated September 29, 2016, addressing air quality designation recommendations for the revised 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone throughout Louisiana. I appreciate the information Louisiana shared with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as we both move forward to improve ozone air quality. This letter is to notify you of the EPA's response to Louisiana's nonattainment area and other area recommendations, and to inform you of our approach for completing designations for the revised ozone standards.

On October 1, 2015, the EPA lowered the primary 8-hour ozone standard from 0.075 parts per million (ppm) to 0.070 ppm to provide increased protection of public health. The EPA revised the secondary 8-hour ozone standard, making it identical to the primary standard, to protect against welfare effects, including impacts on sensitive vegetation and forested ecosystems. Working closely with the states and tribes, the EPA is implementing the standards using a common sense approach that improves air quality and minimizes the burden on state and local governments. As part of this routine process, the EPA is working with the states to identify areas in the country that meet the 2015 ozone standards and those that need to take steps to reduce ozone pollution to attain the 2015 standards.

As a first step in implementing the 2015 ozone standards, the EPA asked states to submit in the Fall of 2016 their designation recommendations, including appropriate area boundaries. In response to and consistent with the States' recommendations, EPA published an initial round of final designations on November 16, 2017 in the Federal Register. In that action, the EPA designated as Attainment/Unclassifiable most areas of the country, including all but 11 parishes in Louisiana.¹

¹ In addition, the EPA designated three counties in the state of Washington as Unclassifiable, consistent with the State of Washington's recommendation. Further, consistent with EPA's "Policy for Establishing Separate Air Quality Designations for Areas of Indian Country" (December 20, 2011), the EPA designated two areas of Indian country as separate Attainment/Unclassifiable areas.

As required by the Clean Air Act, the EPA will designate an area as Nonattainment if there are certified, quality-assured air quality monitoring data showing a violation of the 2015 ozone standards or if the EPA makes a determination that the area is contributing to a violation of the standards in a nearby area. Areas designated Attainment/Unclassifiable are not measuring or contributing to a violation of the standards.

After considering Louisiana's September 29, 2016, ozone designation recommendations, which were based on 2013-2015 air quality data, as well as other relevant technical information, EPA intends to designate the area listed in the table below as Nonattainment, and to designate all other areas in the State not previously designated in November 2017 as Attainment/Unclassifiable. Our intended designations for nonattainment and Attainment/Unclassifiable are consistent with the State's recommendations. The Technical Support Document for Louisiana, which provides a detailed analysis to support our proposed designation decisions, is posted on the EPA's Ozone Designations web site at <https://www.epa.gov/ozone-designations>

Area	EPA's Intended Nonattainment Parishes
Baton Rouge, LA	Ascension Parish East Baton Rouge Parish Iberville Parish Livingston Parish West Baton Rouge Parish

In order for the EPA to consider more current (i.e., 2015-2017) air quality data in the final designation decisions for Louisiana, certified, quality-assured 2015-2017 air quality monitoring data for the area must be submitted to the EPA by February 28, 2018.

If Louisiana has additional information that it would like the EPA to consider, please submit it to us by February 28, 2018. Please submit additional information by sending it to the EPA's public docket for these designations, EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0548, located at www.regulations.gov, and by sending a copy to EPA Region 6, pursuant to the instructions detailed in the forthcoming *Federal Register* action. The EPA will also make its proposed designation decisions and supporting documentation available to the general public for review and comment as part of the Federal Register action. We will be announcing a 30-day public comment period shortly in the *Federal Register*. After considering any additional information we may receive, and responding to significant comments, the EPA plans to promulgate final ozone designations in Spring of 2018.

The EPA is committed to working with the states and tribes to reduce ozone air pollution. We look forward to a continued dialogue with you and your staff as we work together to implement the 2015 ozone standards. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 214-665-3110 or have a member of your staff contact Carrie Paige at 214-665-6521 or paige.carrie@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Anne L. Idsal
Regional Administrator

cc: Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D., Secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Donald Trahan, Administrator, Air Planning and Assessment,
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality