



STEVEN A. THOMPSON  
Executive Director

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

MARY FALLIN  
Governor

May 30, 2012

Ozone Advance  
Laura Bunte, Mail Code C304-01  
U.S EPA, OAQPS  
109 TW Alexander Drive  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

Dear Ms. Bunte,

I am respectfully requesting that the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) be accepted to participate as the lead agency in EPA's new Ozone Advance Program for the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area. This region is an ideal candidate for the program in that it is presently designated as attainment with the current ozone standard; it possesses 5 strategically placed state operated quality controlled ozone monitors, and it has been subjected to a thorough state compiled emissions inventory, meeting all submittal requirements.

Central Oklahoma additionally finds itself in the precarious position of having technically violated the ozone standard when considering data collected in 2009, 2010, and 2011. Consequently, we feel that participation in the Ozone Advance Program will offer the area a unique opportunity to obtain meaningful emissions reductions that will provide health benefits to our citizens, while possibly precluding a future non-attainment designation.

Central Oklahoma has a long history of participating in a successful voluntary ozone reduction programs. Our Oklahoma City based council of governments, The Association of Central Oklahoma Governments and ODEQ have participated in the Flexible Attainment Region program, the 1- hour Ozone Flex Program, the Early Action Compact initiative and are still actively involved in the 8-hour Ozone Flex Program which is scheduled to expire at the end of this year. Continuing the goals of the flex program should provide an appropriate transition to Ozone Advance. ODEQ also supports an active statewide Ozone Alert and Health Advisory Program.

Our division is also planning to apply for the latest round of the DERA competitive grants, and we understand that being an Ozone Advance participant may give us an advantage in obtaining this funding. The emissions reductions realized through this grant should aid us in meeting our attainment goals.

We look forward to working with our stakeholders and your agency on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

*Beverly Batchlet-Smith*  
Assistant Division Director

*for* Eddie Terrill  
Division Director  
Air Quality Division

cc: Carrie Paige, EPA  
John G. Johnson, ACOG

