



HOOD COUNTY COUNTY JUDGE

DARRELL COCKERHAM

April 4, 2012

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Ozone Advance
c/o Laura Bunte, Mail Code C304-01
109 TW Alexander Drive
RTP, NC 27711

Submitted via e-mail to: bunte.laura@epa.gov

RE: Signup Letter for EPA Ozone Advance Program

Dear Ms. Bunte,

On behalf of Hood County, Texas, I would like to thank you and the EPA for creating the Ozone Advance program. Hood County, Texas would like to participate in this program and work cooperatively with you to improve air quality in our county.

The most recent certified data from the ozone monitor in Granbury, Texas indicates that Hood County, Texas is in compliance with the 8-hour ozone NAAQS. By entering into the Ozone Advance program, we hope to work cooperatively with the EPA to identify proactive solutions that we can perform to improve the air quality in our communities and remain in compliance with new NAAQS standards that may be promulgated in the future.

Hood County, Texas is a rural county in North Central Texas and much of our population growth and economic development is tied to the growth in retirees choosing Hood County, Texas and the City of Granbury, Texas. These retirees have moved to Hood County for the clean air and quiet lifestyle afforded by the small towns in our county. Lake Granbury, in central Hood County, is a beautiful recreation spot surrounded by retirement homes. We understand that economic wellbeing is inextricably tied to a healthy environment. To that end, we strongly support clean air and the current NAAQS of .075 ppm.

Today, over 21.3% of our population is 65 and older, which is a group that is especially sensitive to ozone and air quality. We are conscious that this group, as well as our young children, are especially sensitive to the environment. We are aware that our retirees have elected to live in Hood County because of our rural setting and high quality of life, therefore, we are committed to ensuring that Hood County meets and exceeds air quality standards for ozone and other pollutants. We are also committed to ensuring that our county retains its quality of life and the beauty of its small town that makes our county such a wonderful place to live. We have been an example to small Texas towns throughout the state and would certainly plan to continue being an example of a "quality of life community".

In 2010, Hood County's design value for ozone was .075 ppm. While this design value meets National Ambient Air Quality Standards, this ozone level is higher than we would like to see in Hood County; we are committed to reducing this level to .070 ppm or lower.

To that end, Hood County and the City of Granbury are forming the Hood County Clean Air Coalition - a public-private partnership dedicated to the long-term improvement of air quality in Hood County, Texas. The Hood County Clean Air Coalition will include local

elected officials, representatives from the Lake Granbury Economic Development Corporation, Granbury Chamber of Commerce, the Superintendent of local school districts, local homeowners' associations, the largest gas production companies in our county, local businesses, and others dedicated to maintaining clean air in Hood County, TX. As set forth in the new charter for the Hood County Clean Air Coalition:

We will act now to reduce NO_x, VOC, and ozone in Hood County to ensure that we protect the region's public health, maintain a robust economic growth, and show leadership in environmental sustainability.

The principles of the Hood County Clean Air Coalition are as follows:

- We accept and support national air quality standards and advocate immediate community action to attain those goals.
- We believe air quality is a regional issue that defies political boundaries and that collaboration is essential for solutions; and
- We recognize all actions must be based on objective scientific data.

In the coming months, we will provide you with additional information relating to the Hood County Clean Air Coalition.

We are hopeful that you will admit Hood County into the Ozone Advance program and that this program will provide us with a venue to work cooperatively with you and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to proactively improve air quality in our county.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Sincerely yours,



Darrell Cockerham
County Judge for Hood County

cc: Dr. Al Armendariz, Ph.D
Regional Administrator, EPA Region 6
Environmental Protection Agency
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