



July 16, 2013

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
Attention: Laura Bunte PM Advance Program, C304-01
109 TW Alexander Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711
ADVANCE@epa.gov

RE: Notice of Intent to Develop Voluntary PM Advance Program
Houston-Galveston Area Council

Dear Ms. Bunte:

Please accept this letter as our notice of intent to participate in the EPA's voluntary PM Advance Program. The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) represents an 8-County Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) region, including: Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller Counties.

Our region satisfies the following program eligibility criteria:

- (1) The HGB region is currently an attainment area for PM_{2.5}, and meets the 1997, 2012, and the 2006 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Our current attainment status makes us a prime candidate for this program.
- (2) As stated above, the 8-County HGB region includes the following counties: Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller Counties.
- (3) At present, five FRM monitors record monitor PM_{2.5} levels within our region: Aldine (482010024), Baytown (482010058), Clinton Drive (482011035), Deer Park (482011039) and Galveston (481671034).

Developing and implementing a voluntary PM Advance Program may benefit the HGB region by potentially avoiding violations of the PM_{2.5} NAAQS that could lead to a future nonattainment designation; increasing public awareness about PM_{2.5} as an air pollutant; and, focusing resources toward actions to address PM_{2.5} problems quickly.

Our goal is to collaboratively promote, identify, expand and improve voluntary PM reduction efforts, resulting in air quality improvements in our region. We intend to work together

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and in coordination with local and regional government agencies, citizen and environmental groups, business and industry-based organizations and other stakeholders to proactively pursue this goal.

Please contact Alan Clark, Director of Transportation, at 713-993-4585 or Alan.Clark@H-GAC.com should you require additional information or have questions regarding our Notice of Intent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Steele", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jack Steele

JS/mb

cc: Joe Kordzi, EPA Region 6