



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

**AUG 18 2008**

Mr. Harold Leggett, Ph.D.  
Secretary, Louisiana Department  
of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 4301  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301

Dear Secretary Leggett:

Thank you for your recommendations on the status of fine particle pollution throughout Louisiana. Fine particle pollution represents one of the most significant barriers to clean air facing our nation today. Health studies link these tiny particles, about 1/30<sup>th</sup> the diameter of a human hair, to serious human health problems including aggravated asthma, increased respiratory symptoms like coughing and difficult or painful breathing, chronic bronchitis, decreased lung function, and even premature death in people with heart and lung disease. Fine particle pollution can remain suspended in the air for long periods of time and create public health problems far away from emission sources. Reducing levels of fine particle (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) pollution is an important part of our nation's commitment to clean, healthy air.

We have reviewed the October 12, 2007, letter from Secretary McDaniel submitting Louisiana's recommendations on air quality designations for the 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards, as well as the technical information submitted to support Louisiana's recommendations. We appreciate the effort your state has made to develop this supporting information. Consistent with the Clean Air Act, this letter is to inform you that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) agrees that your entire state is in attainment at this time. This means that across your state, all areas meet the 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards. This is truly good news for the residents of your state. We challenge you to not only maintain, but also continue the progress you have made toward clean air.

EPA has taken steps to reduce fine particle pollution both regionally and across the country. These actions include the Clean Diesel Program to dramatically reduce emissions from highway, non-road and stationary diesel engines, and the Fine Particle Implementation rule, which defines requirements for states with levels of fine particle pollution that do not meet national air quality standards.

You should also be aware that EPA is opening a 30-day public comment period on our intended designation decisions. We intend to make final designation decisions for the 2006 24-Hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards by December 18, 2008. Please also be aware that in near future, EPA is planning to publish a notice in the Federal Register to solicit public comments on our intended designation decisions. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to a continued dialogue with you as we work together to implement the PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard E. Greene". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard E. Greene  
Regional Administrator

cc: Jennifer Mouton, Administrator  
Air Quality Assessment Division, LDEQ