

March 27, 03

Dr. Hall Bohlinger
Secretary
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 82263
Baton Rouge, LA 70884 - 2263

RE: Budget Adequacy of MOBILE6 Budgets for Baton Rouge

Dear Dr. Bohlinger,

In a letter dated January 10, 2003, the Governor of Louisiana submitted to EPA a revision to the Baton Rouge 1-hour Ozone Attainment Demonstration SIP. This revision incorporates changes to the Motor Vehicle Emissions Budget (MVEB) resulting from analysis with MOBILE6, the newest emission factor modeling program, which was released by EPA on January 29, 2002. This SIP revision contains the 2005 MVEB for volatile organic compounds (18.82 tons per day) and for nitrogen oxides (30.00 tons per day) for the Baton Rouge ozone nonattainment area. We have reviewed this SIP revision for transportation conformity budget purposes in accordance with the procedures and criteria specified in the transportation conformity rule (see 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4)) and the EPA policy guidance dated May 14, 1999. We have determined the budgets submitted on January 21, 2003, are adequate for transportation conformity purposes and they must be used in transportation conformity determinations. We will be posting our determination on EPA's website and will announce our determination in the *Federal Register*. The budgets will become effective 15 days after the *Federal Register* publication date. This submission fulfills an Attainment Demonstration SIP commitment requiring the State of Louisiana to update the MVEB with MOBILE6 within 24 months of its release.

On March 2, 1999, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit issued its opinion in *Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) v. Environmental Protection Agency*, 167 F.3d 641, that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must make an affirmative determination that submitted motor vehicle emission budgets contained in State Implementation Plans (SIP) will not cause or increase violations or delay attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) before they can be used for transportation conformity purposes. As a response to this court decision, EPA issued a guidance memorandum on May 14, 1999. In this memorandum, EPA agreed to make these submitted budgets available for public comment and respond to those comments when announcing our determination of their adequacy. The availability of this SIP revision was posted on EPA's website for the purpose of soliciting public comments. The comment period closed on Monday, March 3, 2003, and no comments were received.

If you have any questions concerning this action, please contact me at (214) 665-7200 or Peggy Wade of my staff at (214) 665-7247.

Sincerely yours,
[signed by]
Carl E. Edlund, P.E.
Director
Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division

cc: Mr. William A. Sussmann
Federal Highway Administration

Ms. Peggy Crist
Federal Transit Administration