



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200

DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

March 23, 2005

Ms. Candy Garrett, Director  
Air Quality Planning and Implementation Division  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Dear Ms. Garrett:

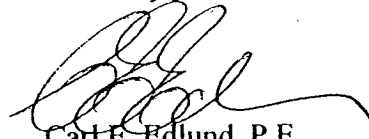
The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will announce in the *Federal Register* our determination that the motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEB) contained in the latest revision to the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria 1-hour Ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP) are adequate for transportation conformity purposes. The budgets will become effective 15 days after the *Federal Register* publication date.

In a letter dated December 17, 2004, Commissioner Kathleen Hartnett White submitted to EPA a revision to the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria 1-hour Ozone SIP. This revision incorporates changes to the MVEBs resulting from analysis with MOBILE6, the newest emission factor modeling program, which was released by EPA on January 28, 2002. This submission fulfills a state commitment to revise the MVEBs with MOBILE6 prior to their use in transportation conformity (66 FR 57160). The SIP submittal contains revised MVEBs for the year 2007. The new MVEB for nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) is 186.13 tons per day; the new MVEB for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) is 89.99 tons per day.

EPA is required to make an affirmative determination that the MVEBs are consistent with the SIP control strategy, and we have followed the procedure for doing so per 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4). The availability of this SIP revision was posted on EPA's website for the purpose of soliciting public comments. The MVEBs were made available for public review on January 12, 2005; we received no comment by the close of the comment period on February 11, 2005. We have determined the budgets submitted in this SIP revision are adequate for transportation conformity purposes and they must be used in future transportation conformity determinations. We will be posting our determination on EPA's website in addition to announcing it in the *Federal Register*.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl E. Edlund', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carl E. Edlund, P.E.

Director

Multimedia Planning and  
Permitting Division

cc: Ms. Rebecca Dennison  
Federal Highway Administration