



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460



DEC 22 2008

The Honorable Bobby Jindal
Governor, State of Louisiana
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Dear Governor Jindal:

Thank you for your continued work toward improving air quality. Your efforts mean the members of your State are breathing cleaner, healthier air. I am pleased to inform you that based on air quality data for 2005-2007, levels of fine particles in the outdoor air of your State meet the 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for fine particles.

Fine particle pollution, or PM_{2.5}, is one of the most pressing clean air challenges facing our nation today. These particles are a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets. When breathed in, they can reach the deepest regions of our lungs, and can cause significant health problems. Fine particle pollution is also the main cause of visibility impairment in the nation's cities and our treasured national parks. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working with State, Tribal and Local governments to ensure that all communities meet clean air goals and reduce fine particle pollution.

On September 21, 2006, EPA strengthened the 24-hour fine particle standard from 65 to 35 micrograms per cubic meter. Identifying areas that need additional work to meet this health-protective standard is an important step towards attaining and maintaining clean air. For States such as yours, the challenge now is to not only sustain, but also enhance that progress. EPA looks forward to continuing to partner with you on clean air issues. For additional information, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/pmdesignations>.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Johnson

cc: Leggett Harold
Environmental Commissioner, Louisiana

Richard Greene
Regional Administrator, Region 6