

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., P.E., *Chairman*
Toby Baker, *Commissioner*
Jon Niermann, *Commissioner*
Richard A. Hyde, P.E., *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

May 12, 2016

Mr. Steve Page
Director
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
C404-04
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711

Re: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0531; Protection of Visibility: Amendments to Requirements for State Plans

Dear Mr. Page:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requests that the comment period for this notice be extended to end no sooner than 45 days following the publication of the EPA's updated guidance on developing regional haze state implementation plans (SIP). Page 26945 of this notice states:

"The EPA also intends to provide states with updated guidance on the development of regional haze SIPs, in consultation with the states and FLMs, separately from this rulemaking. The guidance will assist states as they refocus on reasonable progress analyses for the next regional haze implementation period ending in 2028. We expect to invite public comment on a draft of this new guidance, and we expect to receive and be able to consider those comments before we finalize the Regional Haze Rule revisions."

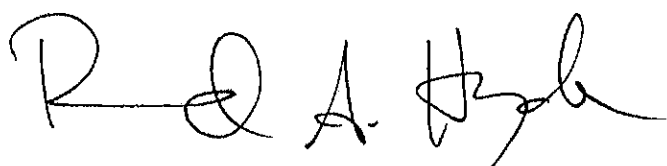
Despite the 60-day comment period allotted for this proposed rule, additional time is necessary to ensure that all issues and aspects of the proposal are adequately addressed in our comments in light of the yet to be proposed updated guidance. The guidance is anticipated to be voluminous and highly technical. Without concurrent access to the guidance, it is not possible for us to provide all the needed comments on the proposed rule change because the full meaning of the rule changes and of EPA's application of them in reviewing and approving or disapproving state Regional Haze SIP submittals will not be known.

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Given the interrelated nature of the proposed rule and the anticipated updated guidance that must be reviewed in tandem to compose informed comments, we respectfully request an extension of the comment deadline until 45 days after the pending guidance is issued.

If there are any questions concerning the TCEQ's request for an extension, please contact Mr. Steve Hagle, P.E., Deputy Director, Office of Air, at 512-239-1295 or steve.hagle@tceq.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard A. Hyde". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R" and "H".

Richard A. Hyde, P.E., Executive Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality