

Resolution



ORDER NO: 2016-0544

DATE: May 3rd, 2016

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §

BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 3rd day of May, 2016, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District 1, and seconded by Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner of District 4, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) area has been in continual violation of the federal Clean Air Act for ozone, or smog pollution, since 1991, resulting in a 10-county "non-attainment area" and, despite efforts, the DFW annual ozone pollution average actually increased from 81 parts per billion in 2014 to 83 parts per billion (ppb) in 2015 resulting in a higher annual smog average than Houston; and

WHEREAS, in official comments, the EPA has stated that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) proposed DFW clean air plan will not be effective "without additional reductions" in smog-forming pollution and is using modeling projections deemed "unrealistic." The EPA further warned that the State's refusal to comply with certain Clean Air Act requirements make the plan unacceptable, and under the federal Clean Air Act, the EPA must approve any state clean air plan submitted for reducing DFW ozone pollution, or substitute one of its own; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Engineering Department of the University of North Texas (UNT) have, with TCEQ data, replicated the State's computer air pollution model for the DFW clean air plan, and the results demonstrate that a clean air plan that includes additional controls at selected major sources of pollution would significantly reduce DFW ozone levels. Such measures as Selective Catalyst Reduction at Midlothian cement kilns and East Texas coal plants, and electrification of large natural gas compressors in the Barnett Shale, would meet or exceed the current ozone standard of 75 ppb at all North Texas air monitors; and

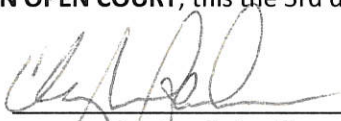
WHEREAS, A 2015 study by University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center's Director of Epidemiology, Dr. Robert Haley, estimates a 5 ppb reduction in ozone pollution would result in economic savings of \$650 million a year and prevent 100 deaths annually throughout Northeast Texas, including 160 fewer ER visits and admissions to hospitals for respiratory problems, 50,000 days-worth of children's outdoor activity curtailed, 40,000 lost school days, \$175 million lost dollars, and 26 premature deaths in Dallas County; and


WHEREAS, in 2015, the Texas Medical Association officially requested EPA to reject TCEQ's proposed DFW clean air plan and substitute one which "conforms to the scientific, peer reviewed modeling methods developed by UT Southwestern and University of North Texas experts.... (and) implementing reasonably available control measures at the state level capable of meeting national ozone standards, based on the UTSW and UNT validated models."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Dallas County requests the EPA to reject the proposed State Implementation Plan for DFW ozone pollution, and require a new federal DFW clean air plan that can meet or exceed the current 75 ppb federal ozone standard at all North Texas monitoring sites, and implement all reasonably available pollution controls as defined by the federal Clean Air Act.

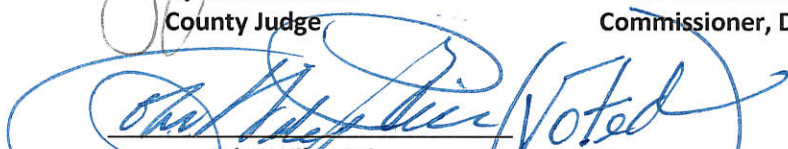
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that because of their significant impact on DFW ozone levels, and the health of Dallas County citizens, we request the EPA regulate East Texas coal plants as if they were in the DFW non-attainment area, or include them in a larger non-attainment area for North Texas under rules governing the new federal 70 ppb ozone standard.

DONE IN OPEN COURT, this the 3rd day of May, 2016.


Clay Lewis Jenkins
County Judge


Dr. Theresa Daniel
Commissioner, District 1


Mike Cantrell
Commissioner, District 2


John Wiley Price
Commissioner, District 3

(Voted NO)


Dr. Elba Garcia
Commissioner, District 4