



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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GOVERNOR

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February 11, 2025

Jeaneanne Gettle
Acting Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Ms. Gettle:

The Commonwealth of Kentucky respectfully submits this petition, pursuant to 40 CFR 1090.290, requesting the removal of the Louisville, Kentucky area (including Bullitt, Jefferson, and Oldham counties) from the opt-in areas of the federal reformulated gasoline (RFG) program. Kentucky originally opted into this program on January 1, 1995, in accordance with Section 211(k)(6)(A) of the Clean Air Act. Kentucky implemented the RFG program in the Louisville, Kentucky, area as an air quality control measure to address violations of the 1997 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) redesignated the Louisville area as attainment for the 1997 ozone standards on July 5, 2007.¹ In the 18 years since meeting the 1997 ozone standard, the Louisville, Kentucky area emissions of ozone precursors, volatile organic compounds (VOC), and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) have continued to decline.

As the Governor of Kentucky, I previously submitted a request for a waiver from RFG requirements for this area on June 9, 2022, because of an unusual and extreme fuel supply issue that prevented the distribution of an adequate supply of gasoline to the Commonwealth's consumers in the RFG-covered areas. The prior request was denied.

After Kentucky opted into the RFG program for the Louisville area, the EPA implemented several federal programs that have resulted in improved combustion technologies for engines and cleaner fuels. The implementation of these programs effectively reduced emissions nationwide, including in the Louisville area. When the EPA determined on March 14, 2014 that the Atlanta Metro area was no longer required to use RFG, it detailed the changes to gasoline and concluded: "The result of all these actions is that now the requirements for federal RFG and conventional gasoline (CG) with respect to NO_x, toxics emissions performance and renewable fuel content are essentially the same."²

¹ 72 FR 36601


² Regulation of Fuel and Fuel Additives: Reformulated Gasoline Requirements for the Atlanta Covered Area, 79 FR 14410 at 14413-14 (March 14, 2014).

Kentucky requests approval to opt out of the RFG program for the Louisville area and, under federal regulation, provides the following information in support of this request:

- (i) Geographic Description of the RFG Area: This request includes all of Jefferson County, Kentucky, and portions of Bullitt and Oldham Counties in Kentucky. A detailed description of the involved geographic area is attached to this request as **Appendix A** (enclosed herein). Additionally, a map of the included area is attached as **Appendix B** (enclosed herein).
- (ii) Description of the Means in Which Emissions Reductions from RFG are Relied Upon: Emissions reductions from RFG were previously relied upon in the now-expired Request to Redesignate Bullitt, Oldham, and Jefferson Counties, Kentucky Located Within the Louisville, KY-IN, MSA 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area for the 1997 standard.
- (iii) The following information is provided concerning reliance upon RFG as a control measure in the Louisville, Kentucky opt-in area:
 - a. Kentucky is not withdrawing any pending State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions because the RFG program is not relied upon as an emissions control measure in any not yet approved SIP.
 - b. Kentucky does not plan to submit additional amendments to any previously approved SIP revisions relating to the Louisville area.
 - c. Kentucky will not revise any of the approved SIP revisions that utilized RFG as a control measure. RFG was beneficial at the time the program was introduced to assist Kentucky in attaining the 1997 ozone NAAQS. However, now that there have been substantial improvements in engine technology and conventional gasoline formulation, RFG's assistance in reducing emissions is not as significant. As mentioned herein, monitoring data show that emissions in the Louisville area continue to decrease and Kentucky will maintain these emissions reductions without relying on RFG.
 - d. Kentucky has not relied upon RFG in any pending SIP revisions; therefore, no revisions to those submissions will be required and there is no risk of the removal of RFG affecting a completeness determination.
- (iv) Kentucky agrees to submit any additional information requested by EPA.

I appreciate your consideration of Kentucky's request to remove the Louisville, Kentucky, area from the opt-in areas of the federal RFG program. If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Michael Kennedy, Director, Kentucky Division for Air Quality at (502) 782-6997 or Michael.Kennedy@ky.gov.

Sincerely,

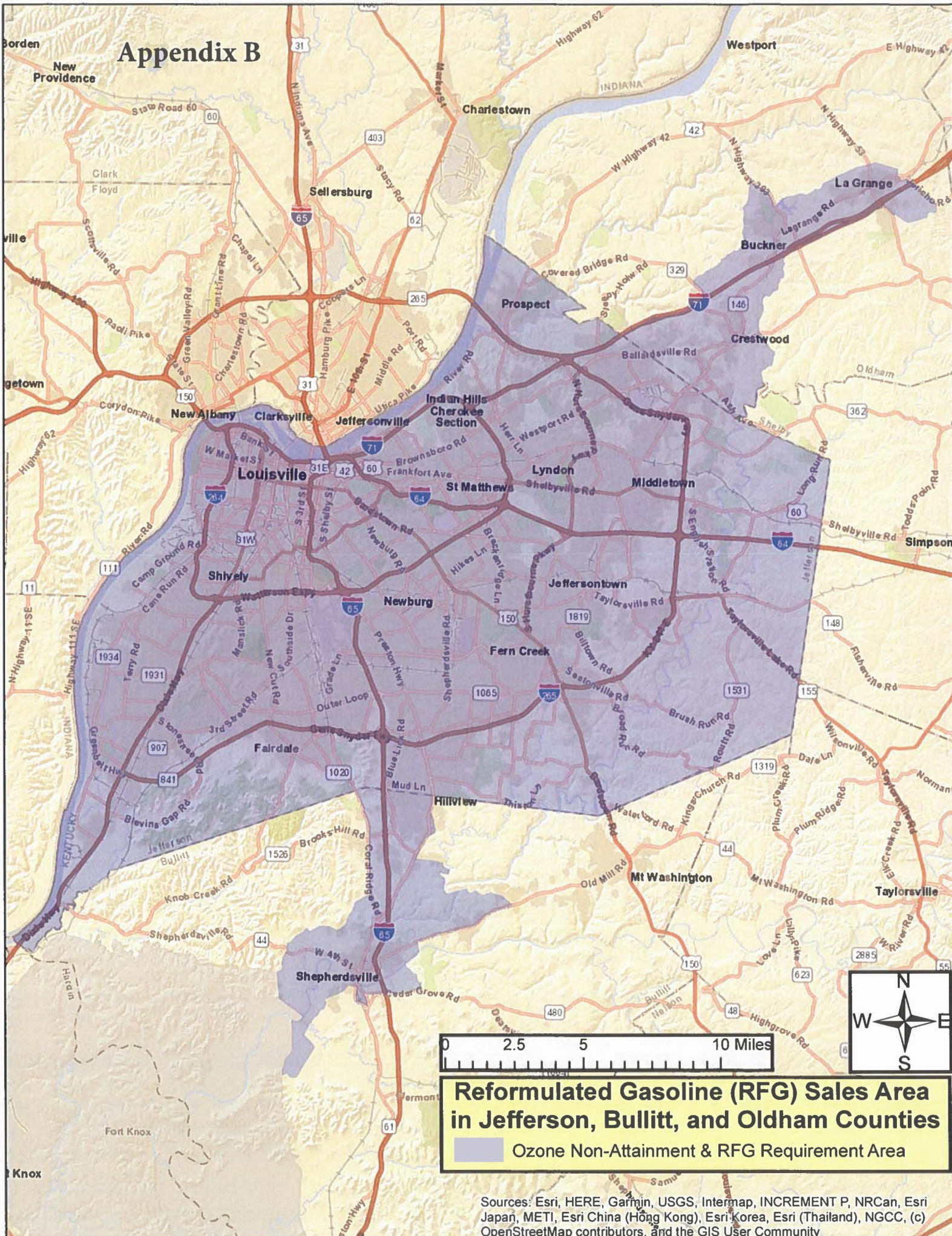

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APPENDIX A

Description of Geographic Area Covered by this Request

The Reformulated Gas (RFG) area covered by this request includes all of Jefferson County, KY; and in Bullitt County, KY, beginning at the intersection of Ky 1020 and the Jefferson-Bullitt County Line proceeding to the east along the county line to the intersection of county road 567 and the Jefferson-Bullitt County Line; proceeding south on county road 567 to the junction with Ky 1116 (also known as Zoneton Road); proceeding to the south on Ky 1116 to the junction with Hebron Lane; proceeding to the south on Hebron Lane to Cedar Creek; proceeding south on Cedar Creek to the confluence of Floyds Fork turning southeast along a creek that meets Ky 44 at Stallings Cemetery; proceeding west along Ky 44 to the eastern most point in the Shepherdsville city limits; proceeding south along the Shepherdsville city limits to the Salt River and west to a point across the river from Mooney Lane; proceeding south along Mooney Lane to the junction of Ky 480; proceeding west on Ky 480 to the junction with Ky 2237; proceeding south on Ky 2237 to the junction with Ky 61 and proceeding north on Ky 61 to the junction with Ky 1494; proceeding south on Ky 1494 to the junction with the perimeter of the Fort Knox Military Reservation; proceeding north along the military reservation perimeter to Castleman Branch Road; proceeding north on Castleman Branch Road to Ky 44; proceeding a very short distance west on Ky 44 to a junction with Ky 1020 and proceeding north on Ky 1020 to the beginning; and in Oldham County, KY, beginning at the intersection of the Oldham-Jefferson County Line with the southbound lane of Interstate 71; proceeding to the northeast along the southbound lane of Interstate 71 to the intersection of Ky 329 and the southbound lane of Interstate 71; proceeding to the northwest on Ky 329 to the intersection of Zaring Road on Ky 329; proceeding to the east-northeast on Zaring Road to the junction of Cedar Point Road and Zaring Road; proceeding to the north-northeast on Cedar Point Road to the junction of Ky 393 and Cedar Point Road; proceeding to the south-southeast on Ky 393 to the junction of county road 746 (the road on the north side of Reformatory Lake and the Reformatory); proceeding to the east-northeast on county road 746 to the junction with Dawkins Lane (also known as Saddlers Mill Road) and county road 746; Proceeding to follow an electric power line east-northeast across from the junction of county road 746 and Dawkins Lane to the east-northeast across Ky 53 on to the La Grange Water Filtration Plant; proceeding on to the east-southeast along the power line then south across Fort Pickens Road to a power substation on Ky 146; proceeding along the power line south across Ky 146 and the Seaboard System Railroad track to adjoin the incorporated city limits of La Grange; then proceeding east then south along the La Grange city limits to a point abutting the north side of Ky 712; proceeding east-southeast on Ky 712 to the junction of Massie School Road and Ky 712; proceeding to the south-southwest and then north-northwest on Massie School Road to the junction of Ky 53 and Massie School Road; proceeding on Ky 53 to the north-northwest to the junction of Moody Lane and Ky 53; proceeding on Moody Lane to the south-southwest until meeting the city limits of La Grange; then briefly proceeding north following the La Grange city limits to the intersection of the northbound lane of Interstate 71 and the La Grange city limits; proceeding southwest on the northbound lane of Interstate 71 until intersecting with the North Fork of Currys Fork; proceeding south-southwest beyond the confluence of Currys Fork to the south-southwest beyond the confluence of Floyds Fork continuing on to the Oldham-Jefferson County Line and proceeding northwest along the Oldham-Jefferson County Line to the beginning.

Appendix B



Reformulated Gasoline (RFG) Sales Area in Jefferson, Bullitt, and Oldham Counties
Ozone Non-Attainment & RFG Requirement Area

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community