

AERCO Service Region

Background

The Houston-Galveston Area Emission Reduction Credit Organization (AERCO) was created in 1994 to promote the improvement of air quality while helping to mitigate the adverse impacts of control strategies on economic development in the Houston-Galveston region. Houston-Galveston AERCO accomplishes this by providing a legal framework to promote air quality improvement and economic growth in the Houston-Galveston eight county non-attainment area. Within the HGB region, AERCO performs several functions: accepting Supplemental Environmental Project funds (SEPs) which are earmarked for public and non-profit organizations through the Clean Vehicles Program, and trading and retiring emission reduction credits (ERCs). These projects and programs will be used to help meet State Implementation Plan (SIP) requirements and for economic development purposes.

Current Situation

Currently, Article II in the bylaws state:

The geographic area served by the Organization is the Houston-Galveston non-attainment area, which is currently coterminous with the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria consolidated metropolitan statistical area. This area currently includes the counties of Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller”

Contributions received from various respondents are distributed to public and non-profit entities within those 8 counties. TCEQ has stated to AERCO that our service region currently resides in Texas Air Quality Control Region 216. This region includes the aforementioned 8 counties, and has recently been expanded to include 6 other counties (Walker, San Jacinto, Austin, Colorado, Wharton and Matagorda). Because of this, AERCO has been invited to receive contributions from respondents within these 6 additional counties. With the exception of San Jacinto County, all the other counties to be added are within Houston-Galveston Area Council’s 13-county service region.

Action Requested

Amend Article II of the bylaws to state:

“The geographic area served by the Organization is the Texas Air Quality Control Region 216. This area currently includes the counties of Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, Waller, Walker, San Jacinto, Austin, Colorado, Wharton and Matagorda.”