



Ground-level Ozone

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Regulatory Actions

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This page contains a listing of all regulatory actions related to ground-level ozone.

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Ozone Standards

EPA to Reconsider National Standards for Ground-Level Ozone

September 16, 2009 - The Environmental Protection Agency announced it would reconsider its 2008 decision setting national standards for ground-level ozone. EPA is reconsidering the standards to ensure they are clearly grounded in science, protect public health with an adequate margin of safety, and are sufficient to protect the environment.

- [Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#) (2pp, 14k)

Revisions to Ozone Monitoring Network Design Requirements

July 8, 2009 - The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed revisions to ground-level ozone air quality monitoring network design requirements. The proposed revisions would support changes to the primary and secondary national air quality standards for ozone that EPA issued in March 2008.

- [Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#) (3pp, 25k)
- [Proposed Rule \(PDF\)](#) (15pp, 123k) Federal Register - July 16, 2009

Strengthened National Standards for Ground-Level Ozone

March 12, 2008 - The Environmental Protection Agency significantly strengthened its national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone, the primary component of smog. These changes will improve both public health protection and the protection of sensitive trees and plants.

- [Final Rule \(PDF\)](#) (80pp, 1.2 MB) Federal Register - March 27, 2008
- [Fact Sheet \(updated 3/18/08\) \(PDF\)](#) (6pp, 49k)
- [Regulatory Impact Analysis \(RIA\)](#)
 - [Full Document \(PDF\)](#) (558pp, 12.6 MB)
 - [Executive Summary \(PDF\)](#) (11pp, 524k)
 - [Cover and Table of Contents \(PDF\)](#) (15pp, 72k)
 - [Chapter 1: Introduction and Background \(PDF\)](#) (7pp, 32k)
 - [Chapter 2: Characterizing Ozone and Modeling Tools Used in This Analysis \(PDF\)](#) (11pp, 212k)
 - [Appendix 2: Additional Emissions Modeling Platform Information \(PDF\)](#) (3pp, 21k)
 - [Chapter 3: Modeled Control Strategy - Design and Analytical Results \(PDF\)](#) (26pp, 2.3 MB)

Other Regulatory Actions related to Ground-level Ozone

- [Clean Air Interstate Rule \(CAIR\)](#)
- [Clean Air Visibility Rule](#)
- [Clean Air Non-road Diesel Rule](#)
- [Section 126 Petitions](#)
- [Tier 2 Vehicle and Gasoline Sulfur Program](#)
- [Transport FIPs](#)
- [Transportation Conformity](#)

- [Appendix 3: Additional Control Strategy Information \(PDF\)](#) (45pp, 2.3 MB)
- [Appendix 3: Additional Control Strategy Information - revised \(PDF\)](#) (45pp, 2.3 MB)
- [Chapter 4: Approach for Estimating Reductions for Full Attainment Scenario \(PDF\)](#) (20pp, 445k)
- [Chapter 5: Engineering Cost Estimates \(PDF\)](#) (34pp, 439k)
- [Appendix 5a: Additional Cost Information \(PDF\)](#) (30pp, 125k)
- [Appendix 5b: Economic Impact of Modeled Controls \(PDF\)](#) (27pp, 159k)
- [Chapter 6: Incremental Benefits of Attaining Alternative Ozone Standards Relative to the Current 8-hour Standard \(0.08 ppm\) \(PDF\)](#) (99pp, 2.8 MB)
- [Appendix 6a: Additional Benefits Information \(PDF\)](#) (8pp, 32k)
- [Appendix Chapter 6b: Health-Based Cost-Effectiveness of Reductions in Ambient O₃ and PM_{2.5} Associated with Illustrative O₃ NAAQS Attainment Strategies \(PDF\)](#) (67pp, 296pp)
- [Appendix 6c: Additional Sensitivity Analyses Related To the Benefits Analysis \(PDF\)](#) (8pp, 43k)
- [Appendix Chapter 6d: Exploring the Effects of Changes in Tropospheric Ozone on UVB \(PDF\)](#) (50pp, 4.5 MB)
- [Chapter 7: Conclusions and Implications of the Illustrative Benefit-Cost Analysis \(PDF\)](#) (16pp, 522k)
- [Appendix 7a: National Baseline Sensitivity Analysis \(PDF\)](#) (10pp, 43k)
- [Appendix 7b: Post 2020 Attainment Analysis \(PDF\)](#) (14pp, 167k)
- [Chapter 8: Statutory and Executive Order Impact Analyses \(PDF\)](#) (6pp, 24k)
- [Changes to the Air Quality Index \(PDF\)](#) (2pp, 25k)
- Presentation: Revise National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ground-level Ozone
 - [Text Slides \(3/18/08\) \(PDF\)](#) (17pp, 385k)
 - [Maps and Graphics \(3/12/08\)](#)
 - [Counties with Monitors Violating the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard of 0.08 parts per million \(based on 2004-2006 Air Quality Data\) \(PDF\)](#) (1pg, 189k)
 - [Counties with Monitors Violating the Revised 8-Hour Ozone Standard of 0.075 parts per million \(based on 2004-2006 Air Quality Data\) \(PDF\)](#) (1pg, 222k)
 - [Counties with Monitors Projected to Violate the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard of 0.075 parts per million in 2020 \(based on air quality model projections\) \(PDF\)](#) (1pg, 169k)
- Additional Documents
 - [2004 - 2006 Ozone Levels - Monitored Counties \(PDF\)](#) (18pp, 89k)
 - [Counties Projected to Violate the 2008 Ozone Standard in 2020 Using Air Quality Model Projections \(PDF\)](#) (18pp, 62k)

EPA Extends Deadline for Faxed Comments on the Proposed Ozone Standards

The public comment period for EPA's proposed rule addressing the ozone standards closed on October 9, 2007. However the Agency will accept comments *by fax only* through Monday October 15, 2007. Please use the following number to submit comments by fax: 202-566-9744.

- [EPA Extends Deadline for Faxed Comments on the Proposed Ozone Standards \(PDF\)](#) (2pp, 82k)
Federal Register - October 12, 2007

Ozone Proposal Fax Number Change

October 5, 2007 - For those wishing to submit comments *by fax* on EPA's proposed rule addressing the ozone standards, the fax number listed in the June 21, 2007 Federal Register notice announcing the Agency's proposed rule is incorrect. Please use the following number to submit comments by fax: 202-566-9744.

Current Speaker Lists for September 5, 2007 Hearings Available

August 31, 2007 - EPA will hold hearings on the recently proposed ozone standards on Wednesday, September 5, 2007. Click on the location below to view the list of speakers, current as on August 31, 2007.

- [Atlanta \(PDF\)](#) (3pp, 55k)
- [Chicago \(PDF\)](#) (3pp, 55k)
- [Houston \(PDF\)](#) (3pp, 58k)

Current Speaker Lists for August 30, 2007 Hearings Available

August 27, 2007 - EPA will hold the first hearings on the recently proposed ozone standards on Thursday, August 30, 2007. Click on the location below to view the list of speakers, current as on August 27, 2007.

- [Los Angeles \(PDF\)](#) (5pp, 54k)
- [Philadelphia \(PDF\)](#) (5pp, 54k)

EPA Announces Availability of Regulatory Impact Analysis for Proposed Ozone Standards

August 2, 2007 - EPA completes benefits and costs analysis on the proposal to strengthen the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ground-level ozone.

- [Fact Sheet](#)

EPA Announces Five Public Hearings for Proposed Ground-level Ozone Standards

July 27, 2007 - EPA will hold public hearings in Los Angeles, California and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on August 30, 2007. The next week on September 5, 2007, EPA will hold public hearings in Atlanta, Georgia; Chicago, Illinois; and Houston, Texas.

- [Federal Register Notice](#) (Federal Register - July 11, 2007)

Proposed Revisions to Ozone National Standards

June 20, 2007 - The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed revisions to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ground-level ozone. The proposed revisions would strengthen the ground-level ozone standards that are associated with public health concerns. EPA will accept comments for 90 days after the publication of the proposal in the Federal Register.

- [Proposed Rule \(PDF\)](#) (103pp, 772k) Federal Register - July 11, 2007
- [Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#) (5pp, 41k)
- [Regulatory Impact Analysis \(PDF\)](#) (364pp, 4.1 MB)
- [Presentation: Proposal to Revise National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ground-level Ozone](#)
 - [Text Slides \(6/27/07\) \(PDF\)](#) (16pp, 411k)
 - [Maps \(6/21/07 11 AM EST\) \(PDF\)](#) (6pp, 509k)
- [Additional Documents](#)
 - [2003 - 2005 Ozone Levels - Monitored Counties \(PDF\)](#) (14pp, 27k)
 - [EPA Criteria Document](#)
 - [EPA Staff Paper](#)

Ozone Designations and Classifications

Learn more about ozone designations and classifications:

- [Ozone Designations home](#)
- [Regulatory Actions - 2008 Standards](#)
- [Regulatory Actions - 1997 Standards](#)

Ozone Implementation

EPA Completes Revisions to 1997 8-Hour Ozone Implementation Phase 2 Rule to Address Vacatur and Remand of Reasonable Further Progress Credits

August 5, 2008 - This final rule will allow states to take credit for reductions of Volatile Organic Compound and nitrogen oxides emissions outside of a nonattainment area if the state can demonstrate that those reductions would help the nonattainment area meet its reasonable further progress goals.

- [Fact Sheet](#)
- [Final Rule \(PDF\)](#) (35pp, 92k)

EPA Sets Schedule for Flagging Exceptional Ozone Air Quality Monitoring Data

May 13, 2009 - EPA established schedule for states to submit exceptional events claims that may affect the status of an area under the 2008 ozone standards.

- [Fact Sheet](#)

- [Final Rule \(PDF\)](#) (30pp, 52k)

EPA proposes to disapprove seven ozone attainment demonstrations and makes one finding of failure to submit ozone attainment demonstrations. -- 1997 Ozone Standard

April 29, 2009 - EPA proposed disapprovals for the ozone attainment demonstration element of the State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for five states and is also making a finding that two states missed the June 15, 2007 Clean Air Act deadline for submitting ozone attainment demonstrations.

- [Fact Sheet](#)
- [Federal Register Notices - May 8, 2009](#)
 - [Disapproval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Connecticut; Attainment Demonstration for the Connecticut Portion of the New York-N. New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area | PDF Version](#) (11pp, 98K)
 - [Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Jersey Ozone Attainment Demonstration | PDF Version](#) (11pp, 98K)
 - [Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Attainment Demonstration for the Philadelphia-Wilmington- Atlantic City Moderate 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area | PDF Version](#) (7pp, 77K)
 - [Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Attainment Demonstration for the Philadelphia-Wilmington- Atlantic City Moderate 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area | PDF Version](#) (7pp, 121K)
 - [Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Attainment Demonstration for the Philadelphia-Wilmington- Atlantic City Moderate 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area | PDF Version](#) (6pp, 113K)
 - [Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Attainment Demonstration for the Baltimore 8-Hour Ozone Moderate Nonattainment Area | PDF Version](#) (6pp, 111K)
 - [Finding of Failure To Submit State Implementation Plans Required for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard; North Carolina and South Carolina | PDF Version](#) (5pp, 93K)

EPA proposes rule to implement the subpart 1 area reclassification and provisions under former 1997 1-hour ozone standard.

January 9, 2009 - EPA proposes a response to the DC Circuit Court's vacatur of an April 2004 rule known as the Phase 1 Ozone Implementation Rule.

- [Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#) (4pp, 36k)
- [Proposed Rule \(PDF\)](#) (35pp, 149k)

EPA Proposes to Revise 1997 8-Hour Ozone Implementation Phase 2 Rule to Address Vacatur and Remand of Reasonable Further Progress Credits

July 14, 2008 - EPA proposes to revise a provision of the Phase 2 Ozone Implementation Rule for the 1997 ozone air quality standard. The provision allows 8-hour ozone nonattainment areas to take credit for emissions reductions outside the nonattainment area for purposes of the Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) requirement.

- [Fact Sheet](#)
- [Proposed Rule \(PDF\)](#) (23pp, 91k)

EPA Makes Findings of Failure to Submit State Implementation Plans (SIPs) -- 1997 Ozone Standard

March 17, 2008 - EPA issued findings that 11 states missed Clean Air Act deadlines for submitting plans, or elements of plans, for implementing EPA's national air quality standards for ozone.

- [Fact Sheet](#)
- [SIP Requirement Timeline \(PDF\)](#) (1pg, 11k)
- [Federal Register Notice \(PDF\)](#) (6pp, 131k) Federal Register - March 24, 2008

Findings on Meeting Basic Program Requirements for State Implementation Plans -- 1997 Ozone Standard

March 17, 2008 - EPA signed a Federal Register notice making "completeness" findings for all states and territories. These findings pertain to the "infrastructure" requirements that all states must have in their

regulatory plans to attain, maintain, and enforce the 1997 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ground-level ozone.

- [Fact Sheet](#)
- [Federal Register Notice \(PDF\)](#) (7pp, 129k) Federal Register - March 27, 2008

Final Notice of Reconsideration - Aspects of Phase 2 Implementation Rule

May 31, 2007 - EPA completed reconsideration on several issues associated the ozone implementation rule requirements and their interaction with the Clean Air Interstate Rule and the New Source Review permitting program.

- [Notice of Reconsideration \(PDF\)](#) (90pp, 267k)
- [Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#) (3pp, 25k)

Proposed Notice of Reconsideration - Aspects of Phase 2 Implementation Rule

December 11, 2006 - EPA is requesting public comment on several issues associated the ozone implementation rule requirements and their interaction with the Clean Air Interstate Rule and the New Source Review permitting program.

- [Notice of Reconsideration \(PDF\)](#) (55pp, 140k)
- [Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#) (2pp, 22k)

Proposed Notice of Reconsideration - Overwhelming Transport Classification

EPA is requesting public comment on several issues associated with the overwhelming transport classification available to certain areas designated "nonattainment" because they do not meet EPA's 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard.

- [Notice of Reconsideration \(PDF\)](#) (46pp, 167k)
- [Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#) (4pp, 126k)

EPA's Final Implementation Rule - Phase 2

November 9, 2005 - EPA issued a final rule that will take the next steps to protect the American public from ground-level ozone pollution. This rule, often called the Phase 2 Ozone Rule, outlines the remaining elements of the program to implement the 8-hour ground-level ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard that EPA established in July 1997. State, tribal and local government will rely upon these requirements as they develop their plans showing how they will attain or maintain the 8-hour ozone standard.

- [Final rule \(PDF\)](#) (95pp, 561k) Federal Register - November 29, 2005
- [Fact sheet](#)

Ozone Clean Air Progress Will Continue

July 26, 2005 - EPA identified the boundaries, designations, and classifications for areas under the 1-hour ozone standard that were in place as of June 15, 2004.

- [Final rule \(PDF\)](#) (9pp, 84k) Federal Register - August 3, 2005
- [Fact sheet](#)

EPA's Final Implementation Rule-Phase I

On June 15, 2004, EPA issued the final rule to implement the 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard-Phase I. The phase I final rule sets forth the classification scheme for nonattainment areas and requires States' continued obligations with respect to existing 1-hour ozone requirements.

- [Final implementation rule \(PDF\)](#) (50pp, 234k) Federal Register - April 30, 2004

NOx SIP Call

In October, 1998, EPA finalized the "Finding of Significant Contribution and Rulemaking for Certain States in the Ozone Transport Assessment Group Region for Purposes of Reducing Regional Transport of Ozone." (Commonly called the NOx SIP Call.)

- [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#)
- [Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#)
- [Final Rule](#)
- [Related Documents and Data](#)
- [NOx Budget Trading Program, 2005 Program Compliance and Environmental Results \(PDF\)](#) (40pp, 5.63 MB)

[Learn more about ozone implementation](#)

Early Action Compacts

EPA releases a study of the Early Action Compact program

June 24, 2009 - EPA studied the EAC program to learn what worked well and what did not. The report is not a formal evaluation but rather makes observations about the program. The study concluded that the EAC Program was useful in bringing together people in communities and educating them about air quality, health problems associated with air pollution, and opportunities to collaborate toward a common environmental goal.

- [Report and Appendices \(PDF\)](#) (204pp, 1.7 MB)

EPA designates 13 areas as attaining the 1997 8-hour ozone standard.

March 27, 2008 - Each of these areas - known as Early Action Compacts - demonstrated that they attained the 1997 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards by December 31, 2007.

- [Final rule \(PDF\)](#) (37pp, 140k)
- [Fact sheet](#)

EPA proposes to designate 13 areas as attaining the 1997 8-hour ozone standard.

January 31, 2008 - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to designate 13 areas as attaining the 1997 8-hour ozone standard. EPA is proposing this action because each of these areas has demonstrated that they attained the 1997 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards by December 31, 2007.

- [Proposed rule \(PDF\)](#) (22pp, 82k)
- [Fact sheet](#)

EPA extends deferral of Clean Air Act requirements for 8-hour ozone for the Denver area

September 12, 2007 - EPA has deferred Clean Air Act requirements to reduce ozone pollution for the Denver Early Action Compact area from September 14, 2007 to November 20, 2007.

- [Final rule \(PDF\)](#) (20pp, 53k)
- [Fact sheet](#)

Extension of Deferred Clean Air Act Requirements for 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Denver

June 25, 2007 - This action defers Clean Air Act requirements to reduce ozone pollution for the Denver Early Action Compact area from July 1, 2007 to September 14, 2007. Communities with Early Action Compacts are reducing smog one to two years sooner than required by the Clean Air Act.

- [Final rule \(PDF\)](#) (39pp, 1.2 MB)
- [Fact sheet](#)

Denver plan will reduce smog ahead of schedule

February 26, 2007 - Denver, Colorado is ahead of schedule in the effort to reduce ground-level ozone, or smog. Because of the progress the Denver area has made and will continue to make under EPA's Early Action Compacts program, the agency is proposing to continue deferring certain ozone pollution requirements for Denver from July 1, 2007, until April 15, 2008. As part of EPA's voluntary Early Action

Compacts program, Denver committed to meeting EPA's more stringent 8-hour ozone standard by Dec. 31, 2007, earlier than required by the Clean Air Act. This is the third deferral for Denver. If they meet the 8-hour standard by Dec. 31, 2007, EPA will designate them as in attainment.

- [Final rule \(PDF\)](#) (1pg, 45k) Federal Register - March 1, 2007
- [Fact sheet \(PDF\)](#) (3pp, 38k)

Extension of Deferred Clean Air Act Requirements for 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards

August 16, 2005 - Fourteen communities across the United States are ahead of schedule in the effort to reduce ground-level ozone, or smog. Because of the progress these areas have made under EPA's Early Action Compacts program, the Agency is taking final action to defer certain ozone pollution requirements until Dec. 31, 2006.

- [Final rule \(PDF\)](#) (31pp, 59k)
- [Fact sheet](#)

Proposed Extension of Deferred Clean Air Act Requirements for the 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS for Early Action Compact Areas (June 1, 2005)

- [Proposal \(PDF\)](#) (26pp, 133k)
- [Fact Sheet](#)

[Learn more about early action compacts](#)