The National Ambient Air Quality Standards

EPA'S PROPOSAL TO UPDATE THE AIR QUALITY STANDARDS FOR GROUND-LEVEL OZONE

BY THE NUMBERS

On November 25, 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to update the nation's air quality standards for ground-level ozone based on extensive scientific evidence. The proposed updates will improve public health protection, particularly for children, the elderly, and people of all ages who have lung diseases such as asthma. The proposal will expand the ozone monitoring season for many states, and update the Air Quality Index to ensure people are notified when air quality is unhealthy. And it will improve the health of trees, plants and ecosystems. States would have time to develop and implement plans to meet revised standards, and existing and proposed federal rules will help by making significant strides toward reducing ozone-forming pollution.

Science-based Air Standards Have a Proven Record of Success

- Setting and implementing national standards for pollution has made the air cleaner for all Americans.
- Since 1970, we have cut harmful air pollution by about **70%** while the US economy has **more than tripled**.
- National average ozone levels have gone **down 33%** since 1980.
- **90%** of areas designated nonattainment for the 1997 ozone standards now meet those standards.

Reducing Air Pollution Delivers Health Benefits for Children and Adults

- An ozone standard in the proposed range of 65-70 parts per billion has public health benefits worth an estimated:
    - **$6.4 to $13 billion** for a standard of 70 ppb, or
    - **$19 to $38 billion** for a standard of 65 ppb.
- These benefits outweigh the costs, estimated at:
    - **$3.9 billion** for a standard of 70 ppb, or
    - **$15 billion** for a standard of 65 ppb.
- Reducing ozone and particle pollution nationwide (excluding California) in 2025 will avoid:
    - **710 to 4,300** premature deaths
    - **320,000 to 960,000** asthma attacks among children
    - **330,000 to 1 million** days when kids miss school
    - **65,000 to 180,000** missed work days
    - **1,400 to 4,300** asthma-related emergency room visits

- **790 to 2,300** cases of acute bronchitis among children

California Benefits and Costs Estimated Separately

- Because several areas in California are not required to meet the existing standard by 2025 and may not be required to meet a revised standard until sometime between 2032 and 2037, we estimated benefits and costs for California separately.
- Meeting a revised ozone standard after 2025 in California will yield annual health benefits of:
  - **$1.1 to $2 billion** for a standard of 70 ppb, or
  - **$2.2 to $4.1 billion** for a standard of 65 ppb.
- These benefits outweigh the costs after 2025 in California, estimated at:
  - **$800 million** for a standard of 70 ppb, or
  - **$1.6 billion** for a standard of 65 ppb.
- Reducing ozone and particle pollution in California will avoid:
  - **110 to 430** premature deaths
  - **99,000 to 210,000** asthma attacks among children
  - **110,000 to 230,000** days when kids miss school
  - **5,500 to 11,000** missed work days
  - **340 to 740** asthma-related emergency room visits
  - **67 to 130** cases of acute bronchitis among children

Existing and Proposed Federal Rules Will Help Reduce Ozone Pollution

- Rules intended to reduce ozone precursors such as NOx and VOCs, along with rules that will reduce these pollutants as a co-benefit of reducing toxic emissions and carbon pollution, will help most parts of the country meet a revised ozone standard.
- This includes federal air rules for power plants like MATS, requirements to reduce the interstate transport of air pollution, and the Clean Power Plan, emissions standards for stationary sources, and Tier 3 vehicle emissions and fuels standards.
- A total of **9 counties** with monitors (excluding California) are projected to violate 70 ppb in 2025 -- down from **358 counties** with monitors that measure ozone above a level of 70 ppb based on 2011-2013 air quality data.
- A total of **68 counties** (excluding California) with monitors are projected to violate 65 ppb in 2025 – down from **558 counties** with monitors that measure ozone above a level of 65 ppb based on 2011-2013 air quality data.