

Proposed Rule: Determinations of Attainment by the Attainment Date, Extensions of the Attainment Date, and Reclassification of Several Areas Classified as Marginal for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards

FACT SHEET

ACTION

- On August 19, 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to take one of three actions for each of the 36 designated nonattainment areas currently classified as Marginal for the 2008 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).
- First, the EPA proposes to determine that the 17 areas listed below attained the 2008 ozone standards by the July 20, 2015, attainment date.

Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA	Knoxville, TN
Baton Rouge, LA	Lancaster, PA
Calaveras County, CA	Memphis, TN-MS-AR
Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC	Reading, PA
Chico (Butte County), CA	San Francisco Bay Area, CA
Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	Seaford, DE
Columbus, OH	Tuscan Buttes, CA
Dukes County, MA	Upper Green River Basin, WY
Jamestown, NY	

- Second, the EPA proposes to determine that the eight areas listed below did not attain the 2008 ozone standards by the July 20, 2015, attainment date, but qualify for a 1-year attainment date extension based in part on their 2014 monitored air quality data.

Cleveland-Akron-Lorain, OH	San Luis Obispo County (Eastern San Luis Obispo), CA
Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX	Sheboygan, WI
Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-MD-DE	St. Louis-St. Charles-Farmington, MO-IL
Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley, PA	Washington, DC-MD-VA

- Third, the EPA proposes to determine that the 11 areas listed below did not attain the 2008 ozone standards by the July 20, 2015, attainment date, do not qualify for a 1-year attainment date extension, and would be reclassified as Moderate based on their 2012-2014 air quality data.

Atlanta, GA	Mariposa County, CA
Chicago-Naperville, IL-IN-WI	Nevada County (Western part), CA

Denver-Boulder-Greeley-Fort Collins-Loveland, CO

Greater Connecticut, CT

Imperial County, CA

Kern County (Eastern Kern), CA

New York, N. New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT

Phoenix-Mesa, AZ

San Diego County, CA

- The EPA is proposing two options for establishing the due date by which air agencies would be required to submit State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions to address Moderate nonattainment area requirements for the areas reclassified as a result of any final EPA action. The proposed due dates are: (1) the beginning of the respective 2017 ozone season for each reclassified area; or (2) January 1, 2017, for all areas.
- The EPA will accept comment on the proposal for 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

BACKGROUND

- In March 2008, the EPA revised the primary and secondary ozone standards from a level of 0.08 ppm to 0.075 ppm. The EPA later issued a rule in April 2012 designating 46 areas throughout the country as nonattainment for the 2008 ozone standards, effective July 20, 2012. In that same rule, the EPA established classifications for the designated nonattainment areas, and classified 36 of those areas as Marginal. The deadline for Marginal areas to attain the 2008 ozone NAAQS is 3 years from the effective date of designation, or July 20, 2015.
- This action is proposing determinations for the 36 areas in 26 states and the District of Columbia subject to the July 20, 2015, Marginal area attainment date. If the EPA finalizes the determinations for the 11 areas that failed to attain the 2008 ozone standards, the Clean Air Act instructs the EPA to reclassify those areas as Moderate. The reclassified areas must then attain the 2008 ozone standards as expeditiously as practicable, but not later than July 20, 2018.
- The EPA's proposed determinations of attainment for 17 areas does not officially change the attainment status of any of these nonattainment area. These areas remain nonattainment until the state's request and the EPA takes separate action to approve redesignation requests that include 10-year maintenance plans. The EPA has recently approved redesignations to attainment for the Knoxville, TN, and the North Carolina portion of the Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC, nonattainment areas. These redesignations are effective as of August 12, 2015, for the Knoxville, TN, area, and as of August 27, 2015, for the NC portion of the Charlotte--Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC, area. Given that these areas were still designated nonattainment as of July 20, 2015, the EPA is including them among the areas for which the agency is proposing determinations of attainment by the attainment date.

HOW TO COMMENT

- Comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0468, may be submitted by one of the following methods:
 - Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
 - Email: A-and-R-Docket@epa.gov. Include Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0468 in the

subject line of the message.

- Fax: (202) 566-9744.
- Mail: Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), Mail Code 28221T, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0468, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20460. Please include a total of two copies. In addition, please mail a copy of your comments on the information collection provisions to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Attn: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20503.
- Hand/Courier Delivery: EPA Docket Center, Room 3334, EPA WJC West Building, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download this action from the EPA's website, go to Ozone Regulatory Actions at <http://www.epa.gov/ozonepollution/actions.html>.
- Today's action and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, the EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room.
 - The Public Reading Room is located at the EPA Headquarters, room number 3334 in the EPA William Jefferson Clinton West Building, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.
 - Visitors are required to show photographic identification, pass through a metal detector and sign the EPA visitor log. All visitor materials will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. Visitors will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
 - Materials for these proposed actions can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0468
- For further information about this action, contact Mr. Cecil (Butch) Stackhouse of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at (919) 541-5208 or by email at stackhouse.butch@epa.gov.