

Fact Sheet — Final Area Designations for the 1-Hour Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Sulfur Dioxide Established in 2010, (Round 2)

## ACTIONS

- On June 30, 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took the next step to implement the health-based national air quality standard for sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) set in 2010. EPA has identified or “designated” 61 areas in 24 states as:
  - “unclassifiable/attainment” - meeting the 1-hour health based national air quality standard for sulfur dioxide (41),
  - “nonattainment” – not meeting the standard (4), or
  - “unclassifiable” – not enough information to make a determination (16).The table at the end of this fact sheet provides further details for each area.
- On June 3, 2010, the EPA strengthened the health-based or “primary” standard for SO<sub>2</sub> by establishing a 1-hour standard at a level of 75 parts per billion. On July 25, 2013, the EPA designated 29 areas in 16 states as nonattainment, but did not at that time designate other areas. Pursuant to a March 2, 2015, court-ordered schedule, the agency must complete the remaining SO<sub>2</sub> designations by three specific deadlines: July 2, 2016, December 31, 2017, and December 31, 2020.
- To meet the first of these deadlines, EPA is designating areas “nonattainment,” “unclassifiable/attainment,” or “unclassifiable” after evaluating:
  - newly monitored violations of the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> standard based on the most recent three calendar years of certified air monitoring data, and
  - areas that contain any stationary source that had not been announced, as of March 2, 2015, for retirement and that according to the EPA’s Air Markets Database emitted in 2012 either (i) more than 16,000 tons of SO<sub>2</sub> or (ii) more than 2,600 tons of SO<sub>2</sub> with an annual average emission rate of at least 0.45 pounds of SO<sub>2</sub>/mmBTU.
- These final designations will take effect 60 days after the notice is published in the *Federal Register*.
- Areas not designated by July 2, 2016 will be designated either by December 31, 2017, or December 31, 2020. The date will depend on what choices states make for areas that are subject to the EPA’s SO<sub>2</sub> Data Requirements Rule.
  - If a state chooses to install and operate new monitors for areas under the Rule, and those monitors are operating by January 1, 2017, the EPA is required to designate them by the 2020 deadline, which will allow the new monitors to generate three full calendar years of data to inform the designation.
  - If the state chooses to model sources under the rule, or establishes new emissions limits for a source by January 2017 to avoid the rule’s modeling or monitoring requirements, or has areas that are not subject to the rule, all of

those areas will be designated by December 31, 2017, since it is not necessary to wait for the results from new monitors being installed.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATED AREAS**

### Nonattainment Areas

- The Clean Air Act requires air agencies to take steps to control pollution in SO<sub>2</sub> nonattainment areas. Those steps may include stricter controls on industrial facilities.
- State and local governments detail these steps in plans that demonstrate how they will meet the SO<sub>2</sub> standard. Those plans are known as state implementation plans (SIPs). States have 18 months after the effective date of final designations to develop and submit their plans to EPA.
- Once designated, nonattainment areas are subject to Nonattainment New Source Review requirements. New Source Review is a permitting program for industrial facilities to ensure that new and modified sources of pollution do not impede progress toward cleaner air.
- Nonattainment areas are required to meet the standard as quickly as possible, but no later than five years after designation. Six months after that date, EPA must determine whether the area has attained the standard. If EPA determines that an area has failed to meet the standard, the state has 12 months to submit a SIP revision that demonstrates that the area will attain the standard within five years of EPA's determination.

### Unclassifiable Areas

- For unclassifiable areas that have sources that must be characterized pursuant to the Data Requirements Rule, states must provide the EPA with a characterization of SO<sub>2</sub> air quality in the area. States may choose to either begin conducting air quality monitoring in the area or conduct modeling of the impacts of those sources.

### Unclassifiable/Attainment Areas

- For attainment areas that have sources covered by the Data Requirements Rule, states must periodically provide EPA with updates on the air quality in those area. Where states choose to use SO<sub>2</sub> monitors, the data are reported to EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) annually, with a May 1 certification deadline for the prior year's air quality readings. Where states have chosen to assess air quality using modeling, the rule requires annual emissions reports to be submitted to EPA by July 1 of each year, and must include the state's assessment of whether emissions have changed in a manner that would warrant a new modeling assessment.

## BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to issue designations after the agency sets a new National Ambient Air Quality Standard or revises an existing standard. Areas not meeting the standard are designated “nonattainment.”
- In June 2010, EPA set a 1-hour, health-based national air quality standard for SO<sub>2</sub> at 75 parts per billion. The revised standard will improve public health protection, especially for children, the elderly and people with asthma. These groups are susceptible to health problems, including narrowing of the airways which can cause difficulty breathing and increased asthma symptoms, associated with breathing SO<sub>2</sub>.
- In July 2013, after reviewing input from the states, EPA designated parts of 16 states as nonattainment for the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> standard, (Round 1).
- On March 20, 2015, the EPA provided guidance and data to states directly impacted by Round 2 of the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> standard designation process. The EPA also notified states and tribes without violating monitors or sources exceeding the emissions threshold established by the court order, but that have a border located within 20 kilometers of a source in a neighboring state that exceeds those emissions thresholds.
- In February 2016, in response to recommendations from state and tribal representatives, EPA sent letters to state and tribal leaders outlining the area designations the agency intended to complete by July 2, 2016, for the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> standard for sulfur dioxide.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- For more information on the designation process for the SO<sub>2</sub> standard go to EPA’s Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations>.

**Final Area Designations for the 2010 SO2 Standards  
Round 2 - June 2016**

(p) partial county

State	Area Name	Source Location	Designation Area	EPA Final Designation
Arkansas	Independence County, AR	Independence Power Plant	Independence	Unclassifiable
	Jefferson County, AR	White Bluff Power Plant	Jefferson	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Colorado	Colorado Springs, CO	Martin Drake Power Plant	El Paso (p)	Unclassifiable
	Eastern Morgan County, CO	Pawnee Generating Station	Morgan (p)	Unclassifiable
Georgia	Juliette, GA	Robert W Scherer Power Plant	Butts Crawford Jasper Jones Lamar Monroe Upson	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Hawaii	Hawaii County, HI	Volcano (monitored)	Hawaii	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Illinois	Alton Township, IL	Alton Steel	Madison (p)	Nonattainment
	Putnam/Bureau Counties, IL	Hennepin Power Station	Bureau Putnam	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Massac County, IL	Joppa Steam Coal Power Plant	Massac	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Williamson County, IL	Marion Power Station	Williamson	Nonattainment
	Jasper County, IL	Newton Power Station	Jasper	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Wood River Township, IL	Wood River Power Station	Madison (p)	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Indiana	Gibson County, IN	Gibson Generating Station	Gibson	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Jefferson County, IN	Clifty Creek Power Plant	Jefferson (p)	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	LaPorte County, IN	Michigan City Generating Station	LaPorte	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Posey County, IN	AB Brown Generating Station	Posey (p)	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Spencer County, IN	Rockport Power Plant/Rockport Generating Station	Spencer (p)	Unclassifiable/Attainment

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Iowa	Des Moines County, IA	Burlington Generating Station	Des Moines	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Wapello County, IA	Ottumwa Generating Station	Wapello	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Woodbury County, IA	George Neal Station South	Woodbury	Unclassifiable
Kansas	Linn County, KS	La Cygne Generating Station	Linn	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Shawnee County, KS	Tecumseh Energy Center	Shawnee	Unclassifiable
	Wyandotte County, KS	Nearman Creek Power Station	Wyandotte	Unclassifiable
Kentucky	Ohio County, KY	DB Wilson Generating Station	Ohio	Unclassifiable
	Pulaski County, KY	John S Cooper Power Station	Pulaski	Unclassifiable
Louisiana	De Soto Parish, LA	Dolet Hills Power Station	De Soto Parish	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Calcasieu Parish, LA	Nelson Industrial Steam Company RS Nelson Generating Plant	Calcasieu Parish	Unclassifiable
Maryland	Baltimore City, MD	Herbert A Wagner Generating Station	Baltimore City	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Anne Arundel County and Baltimore County, MD	Herbert A Wagner Generating Station	Anne Arundel (p) Baltimore (p)	Nonattainment
Michigan	Bay County, MI	Dan E Karn/JC Weadock Generating Complex	Bay	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Lansing, MI	Erickson Power Plant Eckert Power Plant	Eaton Ingham	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Marquette County, MI	Presque Isle	Marquette	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Monroe County, MI	Monroe Power Plant	Monroe	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Ottawa County, MI	JH Campbell Generating Complex	Ottawa	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	St. Clair, MI	Belle River Power Plant St Clair Power Plant	St Clair (p)	Nonattainment

State	Area Name	Source Location	Designation Area	EPA Final Designation
Mississippi	Lamar County, MS	RD Morrow Senior Generating Plant	Lamar	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Missouri	Franklin-St. Charles Counties, MO	Labadie Power Plant	Franklin (p) St. Charles (p)	Unclassifiable
	Jackson County, MO	Sibley Generating Station	Jackson (p)	Unclassifiable
	Scott County, MO	Sikeston Power Station	Scott	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Nebraska	Lancaster County, NE	Sheldon Station	Lancaster	Unclassifiable
	Lincoln County, NE	Gerald Gentleman Station	Lincoln	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Otoe County, NE	Nebraska City Station	Otoe	Unclassifiable/Attainment
New York	Erie-Niagara, NY	NRG Huntley Generating Station AES Somerset Generating Station	Erie Niagara	Unclassifiable/Attainment
North Carolina	Brunswick County, NC	CPI USA North Carolina Southport	Brunswick	Unclassifiable
North Dakota	Central Mercer County, ND	Coyote Station	Mercer (p)	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	McLean County/Eastern Mercer County, ND	Coal Creek Station Leland Olds Power Plant	McLean Mercer (p)	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Ohio	Clermont County, OH	WH Zimmer Generating Station	Clermont (p)	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Gallia County, OH	General James M Gavin	Gallia Miegs (p)	Unclassifiable
Oklahoma	Choctaw County, OK	Hugo Plant	Choctaw	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Noble Count, OK	Sooner Generating Station	Noble	Unclassifiable/Attainment
South Dakota	Grant County, SD	Big Stone Plant - Otter Tail Power Company	Grant	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Tennessee	Sumner County, TN	TVA Gallatin Fossil Plant	Sumner	Unclassifiable

State	Area Name	Source Location	Designation Area	EPA Final Designation
Texas	Atascosa County, TX	San Miguel Electric	Atascosa	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Fort Bend County, TX	WA Parish Electric Generating Station	Fort Bend	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Goliad County, TX	Coletto Creek Power Station	Goliad	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Lamb County, TX	Tolk Generating Station	Lamb	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Limestone County, TX	Limestone Generating Station	Limestone	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	McLennan County, TX	Sandy Creek Energy Station	McLennan	Unclassifiable/Attainment
	Potter County, TX	Harrington Generating Station	Potter	Unclassifiable
	Robertson County, TX	Optim Energy Twin Oaks Power Station	Robertson	Unclassifiable/Attainment
Wisconsin	Columbia County, WI	Columbia Energy Center	Columbia	Unclassifiable/Attainment
24 states	61 areas		18 partial counties 56 full counties	4 Nonattainment 16 Unclassifiable 41 Unclassifiable/Attainment