

**Intended Area Designations for the
2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards
Technical Support Document (TSD)**

Matanuska-Susitna, AK; Duval, FL; Marion, OR

This TSD describes the EPA’s intent to designate 3 counties as unclassifiable for the 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS): Duval County, Florida; Marion County, Oregon; and Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska. We address in more detail in the portion of the Pennsylvania TSD for Harrisburg-York-Lebanon-Lancaster the potential designation of York County as unclassifiable. On October 1, 2015, the EPA promulgated revised primary and secondary ozone NAAQS (80 FR 65292; October 26, 2015). The EPA strengthened both standards to a level of 0.070 parts per million (ppm). In accordance with section 107(d) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), whenever the EPA establishes a new or revised NAAQS, the EPA must promulgate designations for all areas of the country for that NAAQS. The EPA must complete this process within 2 years of promulgating the NAAQS, unless the Administrator has insufficient information to make the initial designations decisions in that time frame. In such circumstances, the EPA may take up to 1 additional year to complete the designations.

Upon promulgation of a NAAQS, section 107(d) of the CAA requires the EPA to subsequently promulgate area designations based on that NAAQS. Specifically, the EPA must designate as “nonattainment” those areas that are violating a NAAQS, or that are contributing to a violation of the NAAQS in a nearby area. By contrast, the EPA designates as “attainment/unclassifiable” those areas where air quality monitoring data indicate attainment of the NAAQS, and for areas that do not have monitors but which the EPA has reason to believe are likely to be in attainment and are not contributing to nearby violations. Finally, the EPA reserves the category of “unclassifiable” for areas where the EPA cannot determine based on available information whether an area is meeting the NAAQS or contributing to a nearby violation.

After review of the 2014-2016 data in the Air Quality System (AQS) and considering issues raised in the Office of Inspector General’s (OIG) management alert (*Certain State, Local and Tribal Data Processing Practices Could Impact Suitability of Data for 8-Hour Ozone Air Quality Determinations*¹), the three counties listed in Table 1 had one or more monitors that we have determined have incomplete data² (see Figures 1-3).

¹ Report No. 17-P-O I06, February 6, 20 17, <https://www.epa.gov/office-inspector-general/report-certain-state-local-and-tribal-data-processing-practices-could>

² The specific methodology for calculating the ozone design values, including computational formulas and data completeness requirements, is described in 40 CFR part 50, appendix U.

Table 1 – Air Quality Data

State Name	County Name	AQS Site ID	Percent Complete ³				4th Highest Daily Max Value		
			2014	2015	2016	2014 to 2016	2014	2015	2016
Alaska	Matanuska-Susitna	021700013	76	0	0	25	0.044	N/A	N/A
Alaska	Matanuska-Susitna	021700012	0	92	99	64	N/A	0.047	0.044
Florida	Duval	120310077	97	32	96	75	0.062	0.054	0.057
Florida	Duval	120310100	92	69	96	86	0.071	0.061	0.064
Florida	Duval	120310106	98	0	98	65	0.060	N/A	0.062
Oregon	Marion	410470004 ⁴	17	79	83	60	0.057	0.065	0.065

³ Appendix U requires a minimum of 75 percent data completeness in each of the three calendar years, and an average of 90 percent data completeness across the three years.

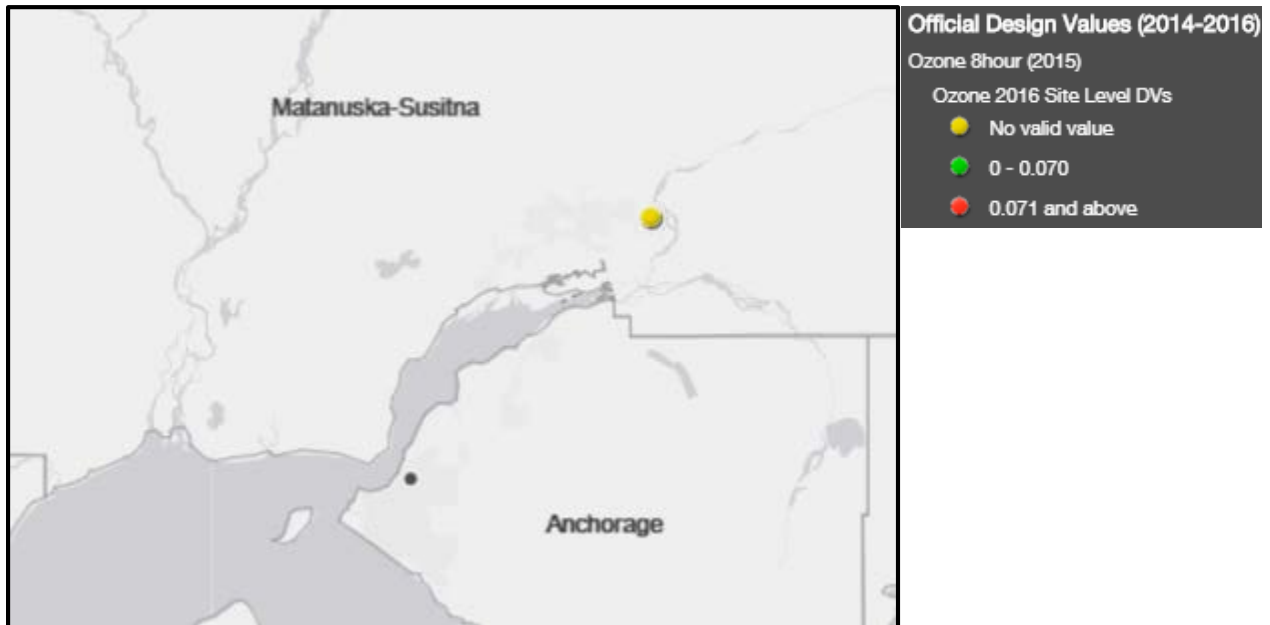
⁴ These values differ from data in AQS after data identified as not meeting quality assurance requirements were removed.

Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska

The ozone monitor in the Anchorage area is located in Palmer, Alaska which is in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The State of Alaska moved the ozone monitor that was previously located in Wasilla, Alaska to the Palmer location in 2015. The monitor only has two years of ozone data (2015 and 2016) entered into AQS for the Palmer location and therefore does not yet have sufficient certified data to calculate a valid 3-year design value for 2014-2016.

It should be noted that the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation committed to EPA Region 10 to early certify 2017 data in AQS to establish a valid 3-year design value. If this early certification takes place prior to EPA issuing final designations, and the ozone design value is below the level of the NAAQS, the EPA would be able to designate the area as attainment/unclassifiable. The EPA intends to designate the Matanuska-Susitna Borough as unclassifiable unless the State provides early-certified data establishing a valid 3-year design value in sufficient time for EPA to consider such data for the final designations.

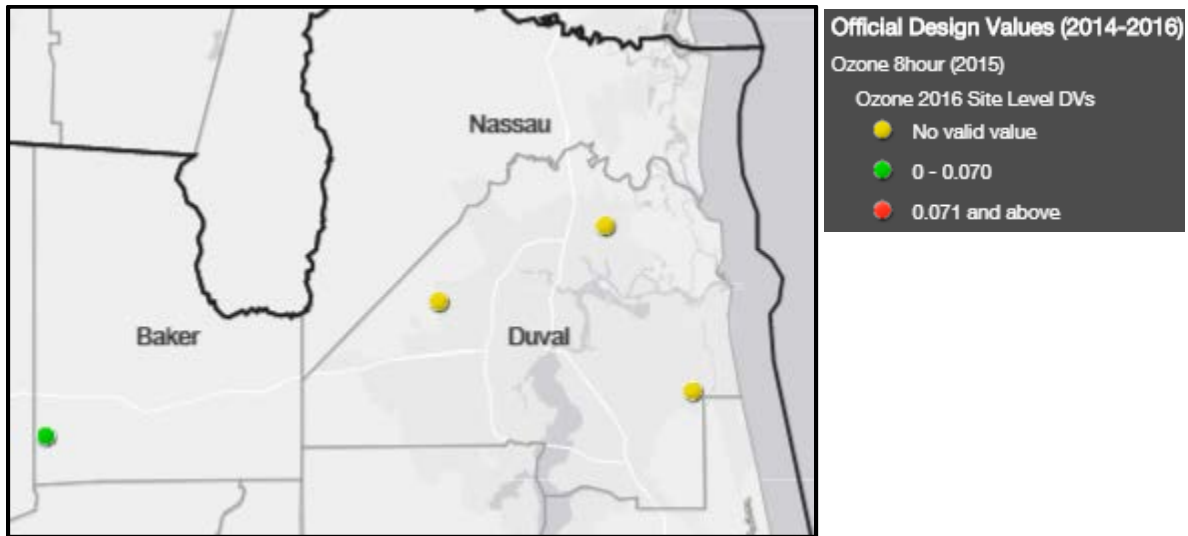
Figure 1 - Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska



Duval, Florida

The State of Florida identified issues with air quality data collected in Jacksonville, Florida for three monitors between 2013 and 2015 and removed the data from AQS that did not meet quality assurance criteria found in Appendix A to part 40 CFR part 58. As a result, the three monitors in Duval County do not have valid 2014-2016 design values because the minimum data completeness requirements found in 40 CFR Part 50 Appendix U were not met. The EPA intends to designate Duval County as unclassifiable.

Figure 2 – Duval County, Florida



Marion County, Oregon

EPA examined ozone air quality measurement data in AQS for Marion County and determined that not all the data in 2014 and 2016 meet the criteria found in EPA’s QA Handbook for Air Pollution Measurement Systems and 40 CFR Part 58, Appendix A. Once that data was removed the monitor in Marion County did not have a valid 2014-2016 design value because the minimum data completeness requirements found in 40 CFR Part 50 Appendix U were not met. The EPA intends to designate Marion County as unclassifiable.

It should be noted that the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has an opportunity to early certify 2017 data in AQS and the 2015 and 2016 data can be revalidated to establish a valid 3-year design value for 2015-2017. If this occurs prior to EPA issuing final designations, and the ozone design value is below the NAAQS, the EPA would be able to designate the area as attainment/unclassifiable. The EPA intends to designate Marion County as unclassifiable unless the State provides early-certified data establishing a valid 3-year design value in sufficient time for EPA to consider such data for the final designations.

Figure 3 – Marion County, Oregon

