

Fact Sheet — Air Quality Designations for the 1-Hour Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Sulfur Dioxide Established in 2010 (Round 3) – Supplemental Amendment for Citrus County, Florida

ACTIONS

- On March 28, 2018, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) modified the final designation for a portion of Citrus County, Florida for the health-based national air quality standard for sulfur dioxide (SO₂) set in 2010.
- As part of the third round of area designations, on December 21, 2017, EPA designated part of Citrus County, FL as “unclassifiable” because the agency did not have enough information to determine whether the area attained the 2010 sulfur dioxide standard.
- Because the third round of designations were promulgated so close to the end of the 2017 calendar year, EPA agreed to consider complete, quality-assured, certified 2017 data or related information about 2017 air quality that supported a change of the designation for an area. Florida subsequently submitted 2017 air quality information for Citrus County.
- After evaluating the data submitted by Florida and considering all available information for the area, EPA is changing the designation for the part of Citrus County surrounding the Crystal River Power Plant from Unclassifiable to Attainment/Unclassifiable. All of Citrus County will now be Attainment/Unclassifiable.
- The third round of area designations including this modification, takes effect on April 9, 2018.

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 SO₂ 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 SO₂.

Round 1:

- In July 2013, after reviewing input from the states, EPA designated 29 areas in 16 states as nonattainment for the 2010 SO₂ standard.

Round 2:

- On June 30, 2016, and November 29, 2016, EPA designated 65 areas in 24 states as:
 - “attainment/unclassifiable” - meeting the 1-hour health based national air quality standard for sulfur dioxide (41 areas),
 - “nonattainment” – not meeting the standard (7 areas), or
 - “unclassifiable” – not enough information to determine (17 areas).

Round 3:

- On December 21, 2017, EPA designated areas in all states and territories as:
 - “nonattainment” – not meeting the 1-hour health based national air quality standard for SO₂ (six areas in three states and two territories),
 - “unclassifiable” – not enough information to determine whether an areas met the standard (23 areas in ten states, and will be 22 areas in 10 states after today’s action), or
 - “attainment/unclassifiable” - meeting the standard and not contributing to a violation of the standard (all remaining areas except where additional SO₂ air quality monitoring is underway).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- For more information on the designation process for the SO₂ standard go to EPA’s Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations>.