

2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards Proposed Implementation (Classifications & SIP Requirements) Rule



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Overview

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Background

- National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone established in 1979 and revised in 1997, 2008 and 2015.
- Revised 8-hour ozone NAAQS promulgated October 1, 2015: 0.070 ppm
- The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires air agencies to submit plans to implement the revised ozone NAAQS (commonly known as state implementation plans, or SIPs).
- Proposed implementation rule published November 17, 2016 (81 FR 81276) proposes a framework for nonattainment area classifications and SIP requirements for the 2015 ozone NAAQS.
- Proposed rule largely follows approach adopted for the previous Classifications Rule and SIP Requirements Rule (SRR) for the 2008 ozone NAAQS.
- Comment period ended February 17, 2017



1. Classification thresholds and attainment dates

- Propose to retain current “percent-above-the-standard” method in establishing nonattainment area classification thresholds.
- Propose to retain current approach in establishing attainment dates for each nonattainment area classification.

Area class		Percent above 1-hr ozone NAAQS	8-hour ozone design values (ppm)		Proposed attainment date (years after designation)
			2008 NAAQS (0.075 ppm)	2015 NAAQS (0.070 ppm) <i>(proposed)</i>	
Marginal	From up to ¹	0.833 15	0.076 0.086	0.071 0.081	3
Moderate	From up to ¹	15 33.333	0.086 0.100	0.081 0.093	6
Serious	From up to ¹	33.333 50	0.100 0.113	0.093 0.105	9
Severe-15	From up to ¹	50 58.333	0.113 0.119	0.105 0.111	15
Severe-17	From up to ¹	58.333 133.333	0.119 0.175	0.111 0.163	17
Extreme	Equal to or above	133.333	0.175	0.163	20

Note 1: But not including.



1. Classification thresholds and attainment dates (cont.)

- Based on final 2013-2015 design values: Marginal
- This rule also proposes to reclassify 6 California nonattainment areas:
 1. Intended to ensure that area attainment dates for more-stringent 2015 ozone standards are no earlier than those for less-stringent 2008 NAAQS.
 2. If EPA finalizes these reclassifications, it likely would occur in the initial area designations action for the 2015 ozone NAAQS.



2. Revoking the 2008 ozone NAAQS

- Propose two alternative options:
 1. revoke the 2008 ozone NAAQS for all areas and purposes one year after designations for the 2015 NAAQS are effective.
 2. revoke the 2008 ozone NAAQS only in areas designated attainment for the 2008 NAAQS at time of its revocation, and later for areas upon redesignation to attainment for the 2008 or 2015 NAAQS.
- Option 1 is consistent with revocation of the 1997 ozone NAAQS.
- Option 2 parallels the approach most recently used for the PM_{2.5}NAAQS.



3. Submitting nonattainment area and OTR SIP elements

- Propose to retain the existing approach to calculating deadlines.
- States with nonattainment areas must submit various SIP elements required under CAA section 182 based on their statutory timeframes. Examples include (but are not limited to):
 1. Emissions inventory and emissions statement regulations, reasonably available control technology (RACT) requirements (2 years)
 2. Nonattainment New Source Review SIPs, Moderate area attainment demonstrations (3 years)
 3. Attainment demonstrations for areas classified Serious and higher (4 years)
- Similarly, OTR states must submit SIP revisions based on their statutory timeframe under CAA section 184.



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- Similarly, OTR states must submit SIP revisions based on their statutory timeframe under CAA section 184.



4. What about Delaware?

- **Delaware** recommended 2 options.
 1. Option 1: New Castle County (only violating county in the DE) included in large multi-state nonattainment area. Recommended borders of the area include: the entire state of DE, IL, IN, KY, MD, MI, MO, NJ, NY, NC, OH, PA, TN, VA, VA, WV, and WI.
 2. Option 2: A standalone nonattainment area for New Castle County.
- Sued EPA on 1 year extension of Attainment Date
- EPA currently proposing to approve attainment for Philadelphia Area



5. Transportation Conformity

- **CAA Section 176(c) requirements:**
- **Option 2**



Additional Information and Contacts

- Proposed rule notice and fact sheet posted on EPA website:
<https://www.epa.gov/ozone-pollution/implementation-2015-national-ambient-air-quality-standards-naaqs-ozone-state>
- See also Docket No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0202 at: <https://www.regulations.gov/>
- Comment Period officially closed
- Final implementation rule and initial area designations for the 2015 ozone NAAQS anticipated Fall 2017.
- Questions?

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