

CHAPTER 1: GENERAL

1.1 HOUSTON-GALVESTON-BRAZORIA AREA REASONABLE FURTHER PROGRESS BACKGROUND

“The History of the Texas State Implementation Plan (SIP),” a comprehensive overview of the SIP revisions submitted to EPA by the State of Texas, is available at the following web site: <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/sip/sipintro.html#History>

1.2 REASONABLE FURTHER PROGRESS REQUIREMENTS

The 1990 Federal Clean Air Act Amendments (FCAAA), 42 USC §7410, require states to submit State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions that contain enforceable measures to achieve the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The FCAAA also requires states with nonattainment areas due to air quality classified as “moderate” or above, to submit plans showing reasonable further progress (RFP) toward attainment of the ozone standard. The RFP SIP is not required or intended to demonstrate attainment of the ozone NAAQS, but is rather to demonstrate that ozone precursor emissions will be reduced by 15 percent between 2002 and 2008.

On April 30, 2004, EPA published the rule designating the eight-hour ozone nonattainment areas (69 Fed Reg 23936). The HGB eight-hour nonattainment area for ozone is the same as the HGB nonattainment area for one-hour ozone, which consists of Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller.

On June 15, 2004, the EPA finalized Phase I of the Eight-Hour Ozone Implementation Rule, which outlines requirements for demonstrating RFP toward attainment of the ozone standard. In November 2005, the EPA finalized Phase II of its Eight-Hour Ozone Implementation Rule, which detailed RFP requirements for eight-hour ozone nonattainment areas (70 Fed Reg 71612-71705). The EPA requires submittal of the RFP plan by June 15, 2007.

The milestone demonstration requirement shows reasonable further progress by demonstrating a 15 percent emissions reduction for the period between 2002 and 2008. This RFP SIP revision shows progress toward attainment of the NAAQS for ozone by demonstrating a 15 percent NO_x emissions reduction in the eight-county HGB area for the period between 2002 and 2008.

In addition to the RFP analyses, this SIP revision provides updated RFP on-road mobile vehicle emissions budgets (MVEB) and updated 2002 emissions inventories for point, area, on-road mobile, and non-road mobile sources. Furthermore, this SIP revision includes existing contingency measure requirements to be implemented if the area fails to achieve the RFP milestones.

1.3 PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT INFORMATION

The commission held public hearings at the following times and locations:

CITY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Houston	January 29, 2007	2:00 P.M.	Houston-Galveston Area Council 3555 Timmons Lane Houston, TX 77027 Conference Room A, on the second floor
Houston	January 29, 2007	6:00 P.M.	Houston-Galveston Area Council 3555 Timmons Lane Houston, TX 77027 Conference Room A, on the second floor
Dallas	January 31, 2007	7:00 P.M.	Dallas Public Library Auditorium 1515 Young St., Dallas, TX 75201
Arlington	February 1, 2007	2:00 P.M.	Arlington City Hall 101 W. Abram Street Arlington, TX 76010
Midlothian	February 1, 2007	6:00 P.M.	Midlothian Conference Center 1 Community Center Circle Midlothian, TX 76065
Longview	February 6, 2007	2:00 P.M.	Longview Public Library 222 W. Cotton Street Longview, TX 75601
Austin	February 8, 2007	2:00 P.M.	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality 12100 Park 35 Circle, Austin, TX 78753 Building E, Room 201S

Comments were also accepted via fax, mail, or electronic comment. The comment period opened on December 29, 2006, and closed February 12, 2007.

1.4 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

No new control strategies have been incorporated into this revision. Therefore, there are no additional social or economic costs associated with this revision.

1.5 FISCAL AND MANPOWER RESOURCES

The state has determined that its fiscal and manpower resources are adequate and will not be adversely affected through the implementation of this plan.