



Site Navigation

- Cleanups, Remediation
- Emergency Response
- Licensing
- Permits, Registrations
- Preventing Pollution
- Recycling
- Reporting
- Rules

- Data
- Forms
- Maps
- Public Notices
- Publications
- Records
- Webcasts

- About Us
- Contact Us

How 's our Customer Service? Please fill out our [Customer Satisfaction Survey](#)

You are here: [Home](#) → [Publications](#) → [Periodicals](#) → [Natural Outlook](#) → [Summer 2004](#) → [Regional Air Plans Get Updates](#)

» Questions or Comments: ac@tceq.texas.gov

Regional Air Plans Get Updates

Updates to the State Implementation Plan take aim at air quality in the Beaumont and Houston areas, both of which are nonattainment for ozone.

The focus is on Beaumont and Houston areas as the TCEQ works toward year-end deadline

The TCEQ will hold public hearings and accept public comment until Aug. 9 on revisions to the state's plan to improve air quality. The proposals center primarily on the Beaumont-Port Arthur and Houston-Galveston areas, both of which do not meet federal air quality standards for ozone.

After reviewing public comments, the commissioners must vote by the end of 2004 on updates to the State Implementation Plan. The revisions will be submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

Under the new federal 8-hour ozone program, Beaumont-Port Arthur has until 2007 to come into compliance with the ozone standard; Houston-Galveston has until 2010. The Dallas-Fort Worth area faces a 2010 deadline, but its air improvement plan is not being reviewed at this time.

The tougher 8-hour standard is due to replace the old 1-hour measurement for ozone exceedances. Texas was notified this spring that 20 counties are in noncompliance and need to reduce ozone levels, or federal sanctions could be invoked.

The public is invited to comment on the following:

Beaumont-Port Arthur. In what is probably the first proposal in the country for an 8-hour ozone attainment demonstration, the TCEQ plans to submit photochemical modeling projecting future attainment of both the 1-hour and 8-hour ozone standards; to verify the rate of progress the region is achieving toward compliance; and to provide a motor vehicle emissions budget showing the level of emissions from cars and trucks that would be consistent with clean air goals.

Houston-Galveston. The TCEQ wants to place greater emphasis on controlling highly reactive volatile organic compounds from industrial sources and, as an additional incentive, to create an annual cap-and-trade program to reduce these emissions from process vents and cooling tower heat exchangers. The proposal also includes photochemical modeling and other evidence demonstrating the region can comply with the 1-hour standard and that doing so will not interfere with progress toward achieving the 8-hour standard. The agency also would eliminate requirements that motorists in Chambers, Liberty, and Waller counties undergo vehicle inspections each year for excessive air emissions. Also repealed would be the planned restrictions on lawn service equipment in Harris, Fort Bend, Brazoria, Montgomery, and Galveston counties. Another change would delete rules prohibiting a motor vehicle of more than 14,000 pounds from idling more than five minutes in Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller counties.

Portable fuel containers. Under this statewide proposal, only gasoline cans and spouts that are spill proof could be sold commercially, starting in January 2006. The new design limits the emissions of volatile organic compounds when portable containers are used for filling lawnmowers. It also prevents spillage of fuel onto the ground, which then might end up in a storm drain or an underground water supply.

[Back to the top](#)

Public Comment

Public hearings on the proposed revisions to the State Implementation Plan will be held:

- August 2: Houston
- August 3: Beaumont
- August 5: Austin

For more information, visit www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/oprd/hearings.html