

## **EPA Report to Southeast Texas Photochemical Modeling Committee Meeting July 15, 2019**

### Update on Reclassification of Moderate Ozone Nonattainment Areas for 2008 Ozone Standard

EPA published a proposal to reclassify Houston and DFW areas November 14, 2018. A public hearing on the proposal was held on February 15 and the comment period was reopened to February 22.

EPA's Office of Air and Radiation is still working on a final rule to reclassify the Houston area, the Dallas area and 5 other Moderate ozone nonattainment areas that missed the 2008 ozone standard attainment deadline of July 20, 2018 and did not qualify for a 1-year extension of the deadline. The final rule is expected to:

- Reclassify the areas to Serious.
- Set a new attainment deadline of July 20, 2021.
- Set the deadline for new SIP submittals.

The final rule to reclassify the areas to Serious will affect future nonattainment new source review permits in the Houston and DFW areas by changing:

- The offset ratio for major source modifications and new sources from 1.15 to 1 (1.15:1) to 1.2 to 1 (1.2:1).
- Major source threshold from 100 tons/year to 50 tons/year.

### Implementation of the 2015 Ozone Air Quality Standard

On December 6 a final rule on implementing the 2015 ozone standard was published.

The Marginal area SIP revisions for the Houston, DFW and San Antonio areas are:

- An emissions inventory of ozone precursors (VOC and NO<sub>x</sub>).
- Confirmation that the requirement for large stationary point sources to certify their emission reports is met.
- Confirmation that the requirement for nonattainment new source review provisions are met.

More information, including a fact sheet and slides from a webinar, is available at:

[www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution/implementation-2015-national-ambient-air-quality-standards-ozone](http://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution/implementation-2015-national-ambient-air-quality-standards-ozone).

### Proposal on the Houston Area Redesignation/Maintenance State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision for the Revoked 1-hour and 1997 8-hour Ozone Standards

On May 16 EPA published a proposal to:

- Determine that the Houston area is continuing to attain the 1979 1-hour and 1997 8-hour ozone air quality standards and has met the Clean Air Act criteria for redesignation.

- Terminate all anti-backsliding obligations for the Houston area for the 1-hour and 1997 ozone standards.
- Approve the plan for maintaining the 1-hour and 1997 ozone standards through 2032 in the Houston area.
- Approve the Severe Ozone Nonattainment Area Failure to Attain Fee SIP revision to address section 185 of the CAA for the 1-hour ozone standard.

The comment period closed June 17. EPA is currently reviewing the comments. EPA received 6 sets of comments. 3 sets of generally supportive comments from BCCA Appeal Group, Texas Oil and Gas Association and TCEQ. 3 sets of adverse comments from Earthjustice representing multiple citizen groups and 2 other comments from anonymous commenters. The comments can be viewed in the regulations.gov website under docket number EPA-R06-OAR-2018-0715.

### Affordable Clean Energy Rule

In June EPA finalized the Affordable Clean Energy rule to replace the Clean Power Plan rule. The rule establishes emission guidelines for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from existing power plants. The guidelines will inform states on the development, submittal, and implementation of state plans to establish performance standards for GHG emissions from certain fossil fuel-fired power plants.

More information, including fact sheets, is available at: [www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/affordable-clean-energy-rule](http://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/affordable-clean-energy-rule).