



SIP Revision: Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for the One-Hour and 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone Standards, December 12, 2018

On December 12, 2018, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) adopted the HGB Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision for the One-Hour and 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Summary of the SIP Revision

Adoption Date: 12/12/2018

Proposal Date: 09/05/2018

EPA Action: Pending

Background: Historically, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not formally redesignated areas for a revoked NAAQS. This resulted in the HGB area (Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties) remaining subject to continuing severe nonattainment area anti-backsliding requirements under the revoked one-hour and 1997 eight-hour ozone NAAQS despite monitoring attainment of both standards. The HGB area has been attaining the one-hour ozone NAAQS of 0.12 parts per million (ppm) since 2013 and attaining the 1997 eight-hour ozone NAAQS of 0.08 ppm since 2014.

In its *Implementation of the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone: State Implementation Plan Requirements; Final Rule* (2008 eight-hour ozone standard SIP requirements rule) published in the March 6, 2015 *Federal Register* ([80 FR 12264](#) [Exit...](#)), the EPA included an alternative mechanism to formal redesignation for lifting anti-backsliding obligations for the revoked 1997 eight-hour and one-hour ozone NAAQS, termed a redesignation substitute. On July 22, 2014, the TCEQ submitted a Redesignation Substitute Report for the HGB One-Hour Ozone Standard Nonattainment Area, which the EPA approved on October 20, 2015 ([80 FR 63429](#) [Exit...](#)). On August 18, 2015, the TCEQ submitted the Redesignation Substitute Report for the HGB 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone Standard Nonattainment Area, which the EPA approved on November 8, 2016 ([81 FR 78691](#) [Exit...](#)).

On February 16, 2018, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit issued an opinion in the case *South Coast Air Quality Management District v. EPA*, [882 F.3d 1138 \(D.C. Cir. 2018\)](#). The case was a challenge to the EPA's final 2008 eight-hour ozone standard SIP requirements rule, which revoked the 1997 eight-hour ozone NAAQS as part of the implementation of the more stringent 2008 eight-hour ozone NAAQS. The court's decision vacated parts of the EPA's final 2008 eight-hour ozone standard SIP requirements rule, including the redesignation substitute, removal of anti-backsliding requirements for areas designated nonattainment under the 1997 eight-hour ozone NAAQS, waiving requirements for transportation conformity for maintenance areas under the 1997 eight-hour ozone NAAQS, and elimination of the requirement to submit a second 10-year maintenance plan.

To address the uncertainty created by the court's ruling, the TCEQ developed this formal redesignation request and maintenance plan SIP revision for HGB area for the one-hour and 1997



eight-hour ozone NAAQS for submittal to the EPA. On December 12, 2018, the commission adopted this redesignation request and maintenance plan SIP revision to meet Federal Clean Air Act §107(d)(3)(E) requirements for redesignation of the HGB area to attainment for the one-hour and 1997 eight-hour ozone NAAQS. The TCEQ submitted this SIP revision to the EPA on December 14, 2016.

Key Changes:

This SIP revision includes a request that the HGB area be redesignated to attainment for the revoked one-hour and 1997 eight-hour ozone NAAQS. This SIP revision also includes a maintenance plan that would ensure the area remains in attainment of both standards through 2032. The maintenance plan uses a 2014 base year inventory and includes interim year inventories for 2020 and 2026, establishes motor vehicle emissions budgets for 2032, and includes a contingency plan.

SIP Narrative

Files linked from this page are in Portable Document Format ([PDF](#)).

HGB Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan SIP Revision for the One-Hour and 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS (Non-Rule Project No. 2018-026-SIP-NR)

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