

San Antonio
Nonattainment Area
Air Quality Technical Information Meeting
EPA Region 6 Update

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Update on Attainment Deadlines for the 2008 Ozone Air Quality Standard and 2015 Ozone

EPA received a request to grant the Houston area a 1-year extension of the attainment date for the 2008 ozone standard as the area's 4th highest daily maximum 8-hour average in the 2020 attainment year is 75 parts per billion.

It is expected that EPA will publish a national proposal for the Serious ozone nonattainment areas that will cover:

- Determinations of Attainment by the Attainment Date (DAAD)
- Extensions of the Attainment Date
- Reclassification of Areas to Severe

It is expected that EPA will publish a national proposal for the 2015 ozone nonattainment areas that will cover:

- Determinations of Attainment by the Attainment Date
- The 179B demonstrations
- Extensions of the Attainment Date
- Reclassification of Areas to Moderate



Update on Attainment Deadlines for the 2008 Ozone Air Quality Standard and 2015 Ozone (continued)

The national proposal is now expected to be published this fall (previously it was expected to be published this summer). It is also expected that the proposal will address the request for a 1-year extension of the Houston attainment date. Publication of the proposal in the Federal Register will start a 30-day comment period.



TCEQ Requests

TCEQ's 179b request for San Antonio

EPA is currently reviewing the 179b package that TCEQ submitted to EPA.
(Current plan is to include in the DAAD FR package)

DFW 2020 Exceptional Event Package

EPA reviewed and responded to TCEQ on June 30, 2021, that EPA was unable to concur on the proposed exceptional event flags for August 16, 17, and 21, 2020.



Reconsideration for the Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) National Ambient Air Quality Standard

On June 10 EPA announced that it is reconsidering the December 2020 decision to retain the PM_{2.5} standard. Available scientific evidence and technical information indicate that the current standards may not be adequate to protect public health and welfare, as required by the Clean Air Act. This draft will supplement the 2019 Integrated Science Assessment & build on it as a foundation of science for the reconsideration. The revised Policy Assessment and updated quantitative analyses will be reviewed by the newly-appointed chartered CASAC panel (announced by EPA June 2021) & special PM panel (call for nominations was published in the Federal Register (FR) on June 25, 2021: [FR 6/25](#)). See <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-selections-charter-members-clean-air-scientific-advisory-committee> for more information. The call for PM panel nominations closed July 16, 2021.

The anticipated schedule for reconsideration of the PM NAAQS: Proposed decision summer 2022, final decision spring 2023. This effort includes reconsideration of the secondary NO_x/SO_x/PM NAAQS. More information is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/naaqs/particulate-matter-pm-air-quality-standards>



Upcoming EPA Virtual Workshop on Methane Detection Technology

EPA will hold a virtual public workshop August 23 and 24, 2021, to hear perspectives on innovative technologies that could be used to detect methane emissions from the oil and natural gas industry. The workshop will focus on methane-sensing technologies that are not currently approved for use in EPA's New Source Performance Standards for the oil and natural gas industry and how those technologies could be applied in the oil and natural gas sector. EPA's state, local, and tribal regulatory partners, along with members of the public, are encouraged to attend the workshop. Attendees will have an opportunity to submit questions for the panelists.

EPA encourages anyone who is interested in developments in methane detection technology to attend the workshop. The deadline to register is August 18, 2021. Information on the workshop, including information on registration and a live stream of the event is available at <https://www.epa.gov/controlling-air-pollution-oil-and-natural-gas-industry/epa-methane-detection-technology-workshop>.



Oil and Natural Gas Sector Regulations

The Congressional Review Act (CRA) provides a process by which Congress can rescind a regulation that is promulgated by a Federal agency. On June 30, 2021, President Biden, signed into law a joint resolution of Congress, adopted under CRA, disapproving the EPA 2020 “Policy Rule” regulation which amended the Oil and Natural Gas Sector New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources.

In a separate final rule promulgated shortly after the 2020 Policy Rule, EPA promulgated several technical amendments to the amended 2016 Oil and Natural Gas Sector NSPS. This Technical Rule included amendments to address a range of technical and implementation issues in response to administrative petitions for reconsideration and other issues brought to EPA’s attention since the 2016 NSPS. The CRA resolution that disapproved the 2020 Policy Rule did not address the 2020 Technical Rule; therefore, those amendments remain in effect.



Oil and Natural Gas Sector Regulations (continued)

Since the 2020 Policy Rule was rescinded, the EPA has received questions about the Oil and Natural Gas Sector NSPS. In response EPA has developed a Question and Answer document. It's available at:

https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-07/qa_cra_for_2020_oil_and_gas_policy_rule.6.30.2021.pdf.

Additionally, Executive Order (E.O.) 13990, (Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis) was issued January 20, 2021. The E.O. instructs EPA to consider taking steps by September 2021 to:

- Propose a rule to reduce methane emissions from the oil and natural gas sector by suspending, revising, or rescinding the NSPS modifications finalized in 2020.
- Propose new regulations to establish comprehensive standards of performance and emission guidelines for methane and VOC emissions from existing operations in the oil and natural gas sector.



Oil and Natural Gas Sector Regulations (continued)

- As a result of the E.O., EPA intends to propose a rule for public comment in September 2021. As part of this rulemaking, EPA anticipates further explaining the impact of the CRA disapproval of the 2020 Policy Rule, as well as identifying and proposing appropriate changes to resolve any discrepancies in the regulatory text between the 2016 NSPS and 2020 Technical Rule. These proposed changes, along with the proposal to respond to E.O. 13990, will be made available for public comment.



Proposal and Plans to Revise Emissions Standards for Cars and Trucks

Look for publication of FRL 8469-02-OAR

On August 10 EPA published a proposal to revise federal [GHG emissions standards for passenger cars and light-duty trucks](#) to secure pollution reductions through Model Year (MY) 2026. The proposal also outlines the Agency's plans to initiate a subsequent rulemaking to set standards for MY 2027 and beyond, to speed the transition of the light-duty vehicle fleet toward a zero emissions future. The comment period for the proposal closes September 27, 2021. For more information on the proposal, please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/regulations-emissions-vehicles-and-engines/proposed-rule-revise-existing-national-ghg-emissions>.



Proposal and Plans to Revise Emissions Standards for Cars and Trucks (continued)

EPA also announced plans to reduce air pollution from heavy-duty trucks with a series of major rulemakings over the next three years. By December 2022, EPA plans to finalize new stringent emissions standards to reduce nitrogen oxides (NO_x) pollution from trucks starting in model year 2027. This action will include an update of current GHG standards. EPA is also working on new stringent GHG emissions standards for heavy-duty engines and vehicles starting as soon as model year 2030. For more information on the heavy-duty trucks announcement, please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/regulations-emissions-vehicles-and-engines/clean-trucks-plan>

