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SIP Revision: Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB), 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone Severe Area Attainment Demonstration (AD), April 24, 2024

On April 24, 2024, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) adopted an AD State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision for the HGB severe nonattainment area under the 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Summary of the SIP Revision

Adoption Date: 04/24/2024

Proposal Date: 11/29/2023

EPA Approval Date: Pending

Background: The HGB 2008 ozone NAAQS nonattainment area, consisting of Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties, was previously classified as serious nonattainment for the 2008 eight-hour ozone NAAQS of 0.075 parts per million (ppm) with a July 20, 2021, attainment date. Based on 2020 monitoring data, the HGB area did not attain the standard. On April 5, 2021, TCEQ submitted a one-year attainment date extension request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). On October 7, 2022, EPA published a final notice denying the one-year attainment date extension request and reclassifying the area to severe for the 2008 eight-hour ozone NAAQS, effective November 7, 2022 ([87 Federal Register \(FR\) 60926](#)).

Since the HGB area has been reclassified by EPA, the area is now subject to the severe nonattainment requirements in the federal Clean Air Act (FCAA), §182(d), and TCEQ is required to submit severe classification AD and reasonable further progress (RFP) SIP revisions to EPA. The attainment date for severe areas is July 20, 2027, with a 2026 attainment year ([87 FR 60926](#)). EPA set a May 7, 2024, deadline for states to submit AD and RFP SIP revisions to address the 2008 eight-hour ozone standard severe nonattainment area requirements.

With the severe classification, the HGB 2008 ozone NAAQS nonattainment area is also subject to FCAA, §182(d)(3), which requires states to submit plans to include requirements for the FCAA, §185 penalty fee. EPA set a November 7, 2025, deadline for states to submit a SIP revision to address the FCAA, §185 requirements ([87 FR 60926](#)). This requirement will be addressed in a future rulemaking. The required RFP SIP revision was adopted in conjunction with this SIP revision ([Project No. 2023-108-SIP-NR](#)).

Key Changes: This SIP revision included a photochemical modeling analysis and a weight-of-evidence (WoE) analysis that evaluated the attainment status of the area. This SIP revision also included a reasonably available control measures (RACM) analysis, a reasonably available control technology (RACT) analysis, and a contingency plan. To ensure that emissions from transportation projects that use federal transportation funding conform to the SIP, this HGB AD SIP revision contained nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEB) for the 2026 attainment year.



SIP Narrative and Appendices

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

Adopted HGB Severe Area AD SIP Revision for the 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS (Non-Rule Project No. 2023-110-SIP-NR)

- **Adopted HGB Severe Area AD SIP Revision for the 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS**
- Adopted Appendices
 - **Appendix A: Modeling Technical Support Document (TSD)**
 - **Appendix B: Conceptual Model for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Nonattainment Area for the 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard**
 - **Appendix C: Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program Performance Standard Modeling (PSM) for the Existing I/M Program in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) Ozone Nonattainment Area**
 - **Appendix D: Reasonably Available Control Technology Analysis**
 - **Appendix E: Local Initiatives Submitted by the Houston-Galveston Area Council: Existing and Future Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Mobile Emission Reduction Measures**

Associated Rules

This SIP revision incorporated concurrently adopted revisions to rules in 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapters 115 (Rule Project No. 2023-116-115-AI) and 117 (Rule Project No. 2023-117-117-AI). Rules in both chapters addressed major source RACT requirements for NO_x and VOC associated with reclassification of the HGB nonattainment area from serious to severe. In addition to RACT, rules in 30 TAC Chapter 115 also corrected inadvertent errors made in a previously adopted rulemaking that implemented EPA's 2016 *Control Techniques Guidelines for the Oil and Natural Gas Industry* ([Rule Project No. 2020-038-115-AI](#); [88 FR 55379](#)) and addressed SIP contingency measure requirements under the 2008 ozone NAAQS. Rules in 30 TAC Chapter 117 also addressed a rule petition for stationary diesel engines and associated emissions monitoring requirements.

Adopted 30 TAC Chapter 115, Control of Air Pollution from Volatile Organic Compounds

- **Rule Project No. 2023-116-115-AI**

Adopted 30 TAC Chapter 117, Control of Air Pollution from Nitrogen Compounds

- **Rule Project No. 2023-117-117-AI**