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## SIP Revision: Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), Milam County, August 23, 1995

**On August 23, 1995, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) adopted a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision to address SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Milam County.**

### Summary of the SIP Revision

**Adoption Date:** 08/23/1995

**EPA Approval Date:** 09/23/1996 ([61 FR 49685](#))

**Background and Key Changes:** On August 23, 1995, the TNRCC adopted a SIP revision to demonstrate that the state's relaxed sulfur emissions limit would result in acceptable levels of SO<sub>2</sub> and would ensure continued attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). This revision specifically affected three lignite coal-fired electrical generating units (EGUs) built in Milam County in the early 1950s. These EGUs provided power to an aluminum smelting plant constructed by Alcoa. On May 31, 1972, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the original Texas SIP that allowed 3.0 pounds per million British thermal units (lb/MMBtu) in SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from these three units. In 1979, Alcoa petitioned the Texas Air Control Board (TACB, forerunner to the TNRCC) to allow relaxed SO<sub>2</sub> emission limitations for these units based on the actual sulfur content of the lignite fuel the units used. The TACB proposed changing the limit to 5.0 lb/MMBtu in the Texas Register on July 6, 1979. After a public hearing conducted by the TACB on November 13, 1979, Alcoa modified its original petition and agreed to gradually lower the SO<sub>2</sub> emission limit from 5.0 lb/MMBtu SO<sub>2</sub> to 4.5 lb/MMBtu in 1981, and to 4.0 lb/MMBtu after January 1, 1982. The TACB adopted this phased-in schedule on December 14, 1979. However, the TACB did not submit this rule change to the EPA for incorporation into the SIP, which meant that the existing 3.0 lbs/MMBtu remained the federal government's emissions standard for the units.

On May 5, 1981, the EPA issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to Alcoa for exceeding the 3.0 lb/MMBtu SO<sub>2</sub> limit in the approved 1972 SIP. Without an approved SIP revision, Alcoa was required to comply with the 3.0 lb/MMBtu limit under federal law rather than the higher state limit of 4.0 lb/MMBtu. The EPA provided funding to the state to perform modeling showing that the state limits would still be consistent with attainment of the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS.

The final SIP revision submittal to the EPA contained enforceable limits on the use of sulfur-bearing fuels for the three units to prevent potential violations of the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS.

### SIP Narrative and Appendices

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

#### Milam County SO<sub>2</sub> SIP Revision (Project No. 1995-003-SIP-AI)

- [Milam County SO<sub>2</sub> SIP Revision](#)
- [Appendices](#)



- Appendix G-2-1: Dispersion Modeling Analysis (Not Available)
- Appendix G-2-2: Ambient Monitoring Network
- Appendix G-2-3: Agreed Order 94-04-A
- Appendix G-2-4: FM 1786
- Appendix G-2-5: Proposed Agreed Order
- Appendix G-2-6: 30 TAC Chapter 112.8