

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
December 1, 2023

Plain Language Summary of the Ozone Reasonable Further Progress Plan for the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) and Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) Areas

Introduction

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the maximum level of ozone in the air to protect human health (75 parts per billion for the 2008 ozone standard). Ten counties in the DFW area (Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, and Wise Counties) and eight counties in the HGB area (Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, and Montgomery, and Waller Counties) do not meet the EPA's 2008 standard for ozone and are classified as severe nonattainment areas under that standard. Texas must develop a plan for the DFW and HGB areas, known as a State Implementation Plan or SIP, that shows progress in reducing emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x), pollutants that lead to the formation of ozone. This plan must show that the state is making progress towards meeting the 2008 ozone standard by the EPA's deadline of July 20, 2027.

Summary

The proposed plan shows that the DFW and HGB areas are making yearly progress toward meeting the EPA's 2008 ozone standard by reducing emissions of VOC and NO_x according to the EPA's required emissions reduction benchmarks (Project No. 2023-108-SIP-NR). The proposed plan also includes motor vehicle emissions budgets for 2023 and 2026.

Public Comment and Hearing Information

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will offer a public hearing in Houston on January 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room ABC of the Houston-Galveston Area Council located at 3555 Timmons Lane #100. The TCEQ will also offer a public hearing in Arlington on January 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of Arlington City Hall located at 101 West Abrams Street. In addition to receiving public comments on the proposed DFW-HGB areas reasonable further progress plan (Project No. 2023-108-SIP-NR), the hearing in Arlington will also be offered to receive public comments on a proposed attainment plan for the DFW area (2023-107-SIP-NR) and the hearing in Houston will also be offered to receive public comments on a proposed attainment plan for the HGB area (2023-110-SIP-NR). Both the hearing in Arlington and hearing in Houston will also be offered to receive public comments on two proposed rulemakings relating to air pollutant control strategies (Project Nos. 2023-116-115-AI and 2023-117-117-AI).

The hearing will be conducted in English, and Spanish language interpretation services will be available. For accommodation needs, contact Jamie Zech, Office of Air at (512) 239-3935 or 1-800-RELAY-TX (TDD) as far in advance as possible.

The comment period for this project opens on December 1, 2023 and closes on January 16, 2024. Submit written comments through the *TCEQ Public Comments* system at <https://tceq.commentinput.com/>. Comments for the proposed reasonable further progress plan must reference **SIP Project Number 2023-108-SIP-NR**.

The proposed reasonable further progress plan documents can be found on the TCEQ's website at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/siplans.html#prosips>.

For more information about the proposals or to get help with submitting written comments, contact Denine Calvin, SIP Project Manager, (512) 239-0613 or denine.calvin@tceq.texas.gov.