

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
April 13, 2022

Plain Language Summary of the Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) Attainment Plan for Howard County

Introduction

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the maximum level of SO₂ in the air to protect human health. Part of Howard County does not meet the EPA's standard for SO₂. Texas must develop a plan (known as a State Implementation Plan or SIP) to reduce SO₂ in this area to meet the EPA's standard by April 30, 2026, the deadline set by the EPA.

Summary

The proposed attainment plan for Howard County (Project No. 2021-010-SIP-NR) describes how SO₂ emissions in the Howard County area will be reduced and how the area will meet the EPA's standard for SO₂. The attainment plan describes the air quality modeling that was done to identify the sources of SO₂ emissions of greatest impact on SO₂ levels in the Howard County area. The attainment plan also describes the control measures identified to limit SO₂ emissions from those sources. The control measures would be added to Chapter 112 of Title 30 of the Texas Administrative Code through a proposed air quality rule project (Project No. 2021-035-112-AI). Chapter 112 is specific to state rules for sulfur compounds, and the rules for Howard County would be added to new Subchapter E. A summary of the proposed rules for the SO₂ nonattainment areas in Howard, Hutchinson, and Navarro Counties be found at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/prop.html>.

Public Comment and Hearing Information

The TCEQ will offer a public hearing in Big Spring on May 18, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. CDT in the Ballroom at Dora Roberts Community Center located at 100 Whipkey Drive. This hearing will be offered to receive public comments on the proposed attainment plan for Howard County (Project No. 2021-010-SIP-NR) and the associated Chapter 112 rulemaking proposal (Project No. 2021-035-112-AI). The hearing will be conducted in English. Language interpretation services may be requested. For accommodation needs, contact Sandy Wong, Office of Legal Services at (512) 239-1802 or 1-800-RELAY-TX (TDD) as far in advance as possible.

The comment period for these proposed actions opens on April 15, 2022 and closes on June 2, 2022. Submit written comments through the *eComments* system at <https://www6.tceq.texas.gov/rules/ecomments/>. Comments must reference **SIP Project Number 2021-010-SIP-NR** for the attainment plan or **Rule Project Number 2021-035-112-AI** for the rules.

The proposed attainment plan can be found on the TCEQ's website at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/siplans.html#prosips> and the proposed rules can be found at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/prop.html>.

For more information about the proposals or to get help with submitting written comments, contact:

- Mary Ann Cook, SIP Project Manager, (512) 239-6739 or maryann.cook@tceq.texas.gov
- Joseph Thomas, Rule Project Manager, (512) 239-3934 or joseph.thomas@tceq.texas.gov