

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR THE REVISED GROUND-LEVEL OZONE AND PARTICULATE MATTER NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS (NAAQS)

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a series of guidance memoranda during 1998 for States to use in planning for the revised ground-level ozone and particulate matter air quality standards.
- ! On May 6, 1998 EPA issued guidance (“Early Planning Guidance”) to address two Clean Air Act requirements. First, the guidance addressed the requirement for Governors to submit recommendations for designations (i.e., nonattainment, attainment and unclassifiable) for the revised ground-level ozone and particulate matter standards. Second, the guidance explained the process EPA plans to follow for ensuring that general authority/infrastructure State implementation plans (SIPs) are adequate for the revised standards.
- ! On June 9, 1998, President Clinton signed into law the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), which includes provisions which directly affect the early planning guidance. Therefore, EPA is today re-issuing the guidance in a revised form to reflect the new legislation.
- ! By December 1998, EPA plans to issue subsequent implementation planning guidance covering other areas related to implementation of the revised ozone and particulate matter standards.
- ! This series of guidance is intended to help States meet Clean Air Act requirements that relate to implementation of revised ambient air quality standards. EPA will implement the concepts discussed in this guidance through subsequent guidance and rulemaking actions, as appropriate. Such rulemaking actions include approving or disapproving State implementation plan submittals.
- ! This guidance reflects President Clinton’s July 16, 1997 directive to EPA Administrator Browner, which laid out a common-sense implementation strategy for the revised standards.

WHAT DOES EPA RECOMMEND THAT GOVERNORS SUBMIT FOR THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NONATTAINMENT AREA DESIGNATIONS?

- ! The recently signed transportation legislation modifies the timing of the Clean Air Act designation procedure for the revised ozone and PM_{2.5} (particles 2.5 micrometers in diameter or smaller) NAAQS but not the revised PM₁₀ (particles 10 micrometers in diameter or smaller) NAAQS.

- ! For ozone, States should assess which areas violate the revised ozone standard, which areas attain the standard or those areas for which there is insufficient information to determine a violation. States should also submit boundary recommendations for areas violating the standard. This submittal is due by July 1999.
- ! For $PM_{2.5}$, pursuant to the recently passed transportation legislation, States will be required to submit designations for each $PM_{2.5}$ area within 1 year after receipt of 3 years of air quality data, which is expected to be available in the 2002 - 2003 timeframe.
- ! For PM_{10} , using the best information available, States should assess which monitors are believed to violate the revised PM_{10} standard, which monitors have the potential to attain the standard and those for which there is insufficient information to determine a violation. States may also use the best available information to submit boundary recommendations.

WHAT SHOULD STATES DO BY JULY 2000 FOR THEIR GENERAL AUTHORITY/INFRASTRUCTURE STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLANS (SIPS)?

- ! States are required to revise and update their general State implementation plans (SIPs) as needed to ensure they are adequate for the revised ozone and particulate matter air quality standards. These revisions cover the air program infrastructure and the general legal authority provisions of State SIPs. For example, States must ensure that they have adequate authority to monitor air quality.
- ! This requirements for this SIP for ozone and particulate matter have not been modified by the recently passed transportation legislation. However, the legislation does affect the timing of SIP submittals under the regional haze program. This issue will be addressed in the final regional haze rule and subsequent implementation guidance.

WHAT SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE DOES EPA PLAN TO ISSUE THIS YEAR?

- ! One set of guidance -- the Initial Planning Guidance -- will provide an overview of the nonattainment area classification scheme and related requirements for the revised ozone and particulate matter standards. This initial guidance will detail the process by which an ozone nonattainment area can seek the transitional classification. The guidance will also provide the policy for ozone nonattainment area control requirements (known as "RACM" or "reasonable available control measures") similar to the policy which now exists for PM_{10} . EPA expects to have a draft of the Initial Planning Guidance available for comment in mid-1998.
- ! A second set of guidance -- the Program Structure Guidance -- will provide detailed guidance for areas other than transitional ozone areas (i.e., non-transitional ozone areas) and will include guidance for Clean Air Act requirements not previously addressed for the revised particulate matter standards. EPA expects to have a draft of the Program

Structure Guidance available for comment in September 1998.

Background

- ! On July 17, 1997, following a lengthy scientific review process, the EPA revised the national ambient air quality standards for ground-level ozone and particulate matter.
- ! Specifically, the EPA is phasing out and has replaced the previous 1-hour ozone standard with a new 8-hour standard to protect against longer exposure periods. The 1-hour standard will continue to apply to an area for an interim period until EPA makes a determination that the area has air quality meeting the 1-hour standard. In addition, the EPA revised the primary and secondary particulate matter standards by establishing annual and 24-hour standards for smaller or “fine” particles (particles 2.5 micrometers in diameter or smaller) and by changing the form of the existing 24-hour and annual particulate matter standards (for particles 10 micrometers in diameter or smaller).
- ! Under the Clean Air Act, within one year after EPA revises any national ambient air quality standards, States are required to submit recommendations to EPA on designations of areas within their State that are nonattainment, attainment, and unclassifiable under the revised standards. The recently passed transportation legislation modifies this timeframe for the 8-hour ozone and PM_{2.5} standards. The recommended designations for the PM₁₀ air quality standards are still due by July 1998. Today’s guidance provides information to States to help them prepare these submittals for all three pollutants.
- ! EPA plans to “designate” areas as nonattainment for the revised ozone and particulate matter standards based on the most recently available 3 consecutive years of air quality data. The Clean Air Act requires EPA to make designations within 2 years following the issuance of an air quality standard, which can be extended an additional year if EPA lacks sufficient information to act within 2 years. This timeframe applies to the revised PM₁₀ air quality standards. However, for the 8-hour ozone air quality standard, the recently passed transportation legislation requires EPA to complete designations no later than July 2000. In addition, for the PM_{2.5} air quality standards, under the recently passed transportation legislation, EPA will designate areas in the 2004 to 2005 timeframe.
- ! Under the Clean Air Act, within three years after EPA revises national ambient air quality standards, States are required to revise and update their general State implementation plans (SIPs) as needed. These revisions cover the air program infrastructure and the general legal authority provisions of State SIPs. Today’s guidance details the process EPA plans to follow to determine the plans are adequate in these areas.
- ! Today’s guidance notes that States may need to provide additional SIP authorities to implement the regional haze SIP. The timing requirements for the regional haze SIPs were modified by a provision in the recently passed transportation legislation. The timing for submission of future regional haze SIPs, in accordance with this provision, will be

addressed in the final regional haze rule, which is expected to be promulgated later in 1998. The EPA plans to structure the regional haze program requirements in a way that harmonizes them with the PM_{2.5} air quality standard program, consistent with the expressed congressional intent of the recently passed transportation legislation. Further guidance on regional haze SIPs will be provided after the rule is promulgated.

For Further Information

- ! Interested parties can download the Early Planning Guidance from the following website on the Internet: (<http://tnwww.rtpnc.epa.gov/implement/actions.htm>). The guidance is listed under the document entitled "Major Action Items to Reinvent Ozone and PM NAAQS and Regional Haze Implementation," which also contains a complete list of planned activities related to implementation of the new national ambient air quality standards.
- ! For further information about the Early Planning Guidance or the Initial Planning Guidance, contact Chris Stoneman of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-0823. For further information about the Program Structure Guidance, contact John Silvasi of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5666.
- ! EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the ozone and particulate matter standards, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: (<http://www.epa.gov/oar/>). The web site for general information about the new ozone and particulate matter standards is: (<http://www.epa.gov/airlinks>).