

RAQPC Action Item Summary

RAQPC Bylaws: Article 2: Section 2

2. Review and make recommendations to H-GAC Board of Directors on proposed air quality rules, regulations and guidances.

Discussion:

Advisory Committees are formed by H-GAC's Board of Directors to secure information, expertise and recommendations in the diverse areas of H-GAC's work. RAQPC is tasked with remaining current with environmental issues and plans in order to provide the Board of Directors accurate information to make sound decisions on environmental issues.

Summary:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initially established the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) in 1971 and it has not been revised. The current NAAQS for SO₂ is 140 parts per billion (ppb) over 24 hours and 30 ppb annually. EPA is proposing a 1-hour NAAQS that is more protective of human health. EPA is considering a range of 50 ppb to 100 ppb for the new 1-hour standard. If a 1-hour standard is adopted within the proposed range, EPA is also proposing to revoke the 24 hour and annual standards.

EPA is also requesting comments on determining monitor locations and updating monitoring performance methodology.

A RAQPC subcommittee has reviewed the issues and propose that the following issues be submitted to the H-GAC Board of Directors:

- The hourly NAAQS for SO₂ should be revised as proposed by EPA to protect the public health.
- Monitors should be located or relocated to sites of expected maximum concentrations of SO₂ as determined by the emissions inventory and other data sources.
- Support EPA's proposal to update the performance requirements for monitors.

There will need to be a discussion on the 50 ppb to 100 ppb NAAQS range. RQPC will need to decide if commenting on the range is sufficient, or if determining a number is more appropriate.