EPA Report to H-GAC Regional Air Quality Planning Advisory Committee Meeting  
February 28, 2019

Update on Reclassification of Moderate Ozone Nonattainment Areas for 2008 Ozone Standard

Areas that are nonattainment for the ozone air quality standards are classified as either Marginal, Moderate, Serious, Severe or Extreme. The attainment deadlines for ozone nonattainment areas are based on the classification.

On November 14 published a proposal to reclassify the Houston area, the Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) area and 5 other Moderate ozone nonattainment areas that missed the 2008 ozone standard attainment deadline of July 20, 2018 and did not qualify for a 1-year extension of the deadline. In the Federal Register notice EPA proposes:
  • Reclassification of the areas to Serious.
  • Setting a new attainment deadline of July 20, 2021.
  • Setting the deadline for new SIP submittals.

A public hearing on the proposal was held on February 15 and the comment period was reopened to February 22.

The final rule to reclassify the areas to Serious will affect future nonattainment new source review permits in the Houston and DFW areas by changing:
  • The offset ratio for major source modifications and new sources from 1.15 to 1 (1.15:1) to 1.2 to 1 (1.2:1).
  • Major source threshold from 100 tons/year to 50 tons/year.


Implementation of the 2015 Ozone Air Quality Standard

On December 6 a final rule on implementing the 2015 ozone standard was published.

The Marginal area SIP revisions for the Houston, DFW and San Antonio areas are:
  • An emissions inventory of ozone precursors (VOC and NOx).
  • Confirmation that the requirement for large stationary point sources to certify their emission reports is met.
  • Confirmation that the requirement for nonattainment new source review provisions are met due.