EPA Action on the Houston Area Redesignation/Maintenance State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision for the Revoked 1-hour and 1997 8-hour Ozone Standards

On May 16 EPA published a proposal to:
- Determine that the Houston area is continuing to attain the 1979 1-hour and 1997 8-hour ozone air quality standards and has met the Clean Air Act criteria for redesignation.
- Approve the plan for maintaining the 1-hour and 1997 ozone standards through 2032 in the Houston area.
- Terminate all anti-backsliding obligations for the Houston area for the 1-hour and 1997 ozone standards.
- Approve the Severe Ozone Nonattainment Area Failure to Attain Fee SIP revision to address section 185 of the CAA for the 1-hour ozone standard.

A final rule responding to the comments received on the proposal was signed on January 29. It’s been submitted for publication in the Federal Register.

Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the Cleaner Trucks Initiative

On January 21, 2020, EPA published an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) soliciting pre-proposal comments on a rulemaking effort for the Cleaner Trucks Initiative (CTI).

This ANPR describes EPA’s plans for establishing new emission standards for oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and other pollutants for highway heavy-duty engines. It also describes opportunities to streamline and improve certification procedures to reduce costs for engine manufacturers. The comment period for the ANPR closes February 20, 2020.

More information is available on the regulations.gov website under docket EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0055.

Request for Applications for Diesel Emission Reduction Projects

Nationally, EPA is soliciting applications for projects that significantly reduce diesel emissions and exposure, especially from fleets operating at goods movements facilities in areas designated as having poor air quality. Applicants may request funding to upgrade or replace diesel-powered buses, trucks, marine engines, locomotives and nonroad equipment with newer, cleaner technologies. Priority for funding will also be given to projects that engage and benefit local communities and applicants that demonstrate their ability to promote and continue efforts to reduce emissions after the project has ended.

Application packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through the grants.gov website (www.grants.gov) no later than Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 10:59 pm (CT) to be considered for funding. Nationally, EPA anticipates awarding approximately $44 million for these projects.

More information on the National Clean Diesel campaign is available at: www.epa.gov/cleandiesel.