

## BACKGROUND FOR PROPOSED SIP REVISIONS

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reclassified the eight-county Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) area from a moderate to a severe nonattainment area for the 1997 eight-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) effective on October 31, 2008. The HGB eight-county area includes Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties. **The EPA identified April 15, 2010, as the date for the State of Texas to submit its revised state implementation plan (SIP) addressing the severe ozone nonattainment area requirements of the 1990 Federal Clean Air Act Amendments (FCAA).**

Per federal regulations, the HGB area must attain the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard of 0.08 parts per million (ppm) as expeditiously as practicable but no later than the designated attainment date of June 15, 2019. **Emission reductions needed for attainment must be implemented by January 1, 2018, which is the attainment year for modeling.**

Moreover, EPA published its approval of the reclassification in the October 1, 2008, issue of the Federal Register with an effective date of October 31, 2008, and set April 15, 2010, as the date for the state to submit a SIP revision addressing the severe ozone nonattainment area requirements of the FCAA. Severe nonattainment areas are required to attain the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard as expeditiously as practicable but no later than June 15, 2019.

### **Overview of Proposed Revisions**

This Ozone HGB SIP revision addresses the precursor emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and volatile organic compounds (VOC), the control strategies that are to be implemented, the quantity of emission reductions associated with each strategy, and when these reductions will occur. This revision also contains the required SIP revision elements, including analyses for reasonably available control technology (RACT) and reasonably available control measures (RACM), a motor vehicle emissions budget (MVEB), transportation control measures (TCMs), and a contingency plan. Also included in the reduction strategies is 1.55 tons per day (tpd) of Voluntary Mobile Emission Reduction Program (VMEP) NO<sub>x</sub> reductions to the on-road mobile sources for alternative commuting, vehicle retrofit and replacement, and traffic flow improvement measures. It also includes 0.70 tpd for non road VMEPs.

### **Key points in proposed SIP revision schedule:**

**Anticipated proposal date:** September 23, 2009

**Anticipated Texas Register hearing notice date:** October 9, 2009

**Public comment period:** October 9 through November 9, 2009

The commission will hold public hearings for this proposed SIP revision and associated rulemakings at the following times and locations:

**October 28, 2009** at 2:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. at the H-GAC conference Room A; and

**October 29, 2009** at 3:00 p.m. held at TCEQ Building E, Room 201S Austin, TX

**Anticipated adoption date:** March 10, 2010

For more information on about the proposed revisions to the SIP and how to submit public comments, please visit:

[http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/comm\\_exec/agendas/comm/current/2009/090923.pdf](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/comm_exec/agendas/comm/current/2009/090923.pdf)