

EPA Report to H-GAC Regional Air Quality Planning Advisory Committee Meeting February 25, 2021

Final Decisions on Review of the Ozone and Particulate Matter Standards

EPA reached final decisions for the review of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone and particulate matter (PM). EPA is retaining the current standards, without revision.

The final decision on the ozone standard was published in the Federal Register on December 31, 2020.

The final decision on the PM standard was published December 18, 2020.

Court Decision on the Implementation Rule for the 2015 Ozone Air Quality Standard

In late January the D.C. Circuit Court issued an opinion on a challenge to EPA's implementation rule for the 2015 ozone air quality standard in nonattainment areas.

The Court vacated:

- Allowing interprecursor trading for emission offset requirements.
- Use of an implementation-based option for milestone compliance demonstrations that is found in the implementation regulations.
- Use of already implemented measures to meet the contingency measure requirement for failure to attain or failure meet a reasonable further progress milestone.

The court's mandate has not yet been issued, and the decision is not yet final. EPA is continuing to assess the decision.