

## **PROPOSED DESIGNATION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2008 EIGHT-HOUR OZONE STANDARD**

### **Announcement of Public Meetings**

Ground-level ozone concentrations above the federal health-based standard are a serious human health threat. Ozone can also cause damage to crops, forests and wildlife. In March 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated a revised 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS). The revised ozone standard of 75 parts per billion, measured over an 8-hour period, is more protective of public health than the 1997 8-hour ozone standard.

The Governor of each state must now submit designation recommendations to EPA in accordance with Section 107(d) of the federal Clean Air Act. Pennsylvania's designation recommendations are based on air quality monitoring data for 2006-2008, demographic information and other criteria, as recommended by EPA. EPA expects to make final designations in March 2010.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is seeking public input on the proposed designation recommendations for the 2008 ozone NAAQS. Based on air quality, demographic information and political boundary factors, DEP is proposing to recommend that:

- Erie, Greene, Indiana, Lancaster, Berks and Monroe counties be designated as single-county nonattainment areas;
- Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Washington, Fayette and Westmoreland counties be designated as a multi-county nonattainment area;
- Adams and York counties be designated as a multi-county nonattainment area;
- Cumberland, Perry, Dauphin and Lebanon counties be designated as a multi-county nonattainment area;
- Carbon, Lehigh and Northampton counties be designated as a multi-county nonattainment area;
- Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties be designated as part of a multi-county interstate nonattainment area; and
- Mercer County be designated as a nonattainment area, most likely part of an interstate area.

The remainder of the Commonwealth would be designated as attainment.

This proposal is available on the DEP Website at <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us> or through the contact person(s) listed below. The DEP will hold public informational meetings as follows:

March 3, 2009  
1:00 PM  
Waterfront A  
400 Waterfront Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA

March 3, 2009  
1:00 PM  
Susquehanna Room  
909 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA

March 4, 2009  
1:00 PM  
Delaware River Room  
2 East Main Street  
Norristown, PA

For more information on the public meetings, please contact Yvette House at 717-787-9495 (yhouse@state.pa.us). Persons with a disabilities who wish to attend a meeting and require an auxiliary aid, service or other accommodation to participate in the proceeding should also contact Yvette House. TDD users may contact the AT&T Relay Service at 800-654-5984 to discuss how the Department can best accommodate their needs.

Written comments on the recommendations should be sent to Arleen Shulman, Chief, Air Resource Management Division, Bureau of Air Quality, DEP, P.O. Box 8468, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8468 or by e-mail (preferred) to ashulman@state.pa.us no later than 4:00 PM on March 6, 2009. Written comments (including e-mail submittals) must include the name, affiliation (if any), mailing address and telephone number of the interested person.