

Proposed State Implementation Plan Revision: 2011 Base Year Emissions Inventory for the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, Lancaster, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City (Pennsylvania Portion), Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley, and Reading Nonattainment Areas for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Public Hearings

On March 27, 2008, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a final rule establishing revised primary and secondary 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) (73 FR 16436) of 75 parts per billion. Subsequently, EPA designated ozone nonattainment areas for the 2008 ozone NAAQS and classified 36 areas in the country including the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, Lancaster, Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City (Pennsylvania portion), Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley, and Reading as “marginal” nonattainment areas (77 FR 30088; May 21, 2012).

The Department of Environmental Protection (Department or DEP) is seeking public comment on the proposed State Implementation Plan (SIP) mandated under Sections 172(c)(3) and 182(a)(1) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 7502(c)(3) and 7511a(a)(1), which require the submission of “a comprehensive, accurate, current inventory of actual emissions from all sources of the relevant pollutant or pollutants in such area.” This SIP revision contains the comprehensive 2011 Base Year Emissions Inventory for the previously mentioned nonattainment areas for the 2008 ozone NAAQS.

The proposed SIP revision meets the requirements necessary for an approvable SIP revision, including a detailed explanation of the 2011 base year emissions inventory for stationary, area, nonroad, and mobile anthropogenic sources as well as biogenic sources in the areas in Pennsylvania that EPA designated as nonattainment for the 2008 ozone NAAQS. The proposed anthropogenic emissions were estimated for volatile organic compounds, oxides of nitrogen, and carbon monoxide for both annual and a typical ozone season day emissions. The final SIP revision will be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

The proposed SIP revision is available in the Department's eLibrary at www.dep.state.pa.us (select "Tools," then "eLibrary," then "Publications," then “Air Quality”, then "State Implementation Plans – SIP Revisions") or through the contact person listed below.

The Department will provide the opportunity for public hearings to receive comments on the proposal on Monday, September 21, 2015, at 1 p.m. at the following locations:

Department of Environmental Protection
Southeast Regional Office
Delaware River Room
2 East Main Street
Norristown, PA 19401

Department of Environmental Protection
Southwest Regional Office
Waterfront A
400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745

Department of Environmental Protection
South-Central Regional Office
Codus Creek Room
909 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Persons wishing to present testimony at the hearing should contact Alex Haas at P.O. Box 8468, Harrisburg, PA 17105, (717) 787-9495 or alehaas@pa.gov to reserve a time. Witnesses should limit testimony to 10 minutes and should provide two written copies of their statement at the hearing.

If by Thursday, September 17, 2015, no person has expressed an interest in testifying at the hearing, the hearing will be cancelled. DEP will provide public notice on the Bureau of Air Quality webpage at the following link if the hearing is cancelled: <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/aq/default.htm>. Persons may also contact the DEP to find out if the hearing is cancelled by contacting Alex Haas at (717) 787-9495 or alehaas@pa.gov.

Persons with a disability who wish to attend the hearing and require an auxiliary aid, service or other accommodation to participate in the proceeding should contact Alex Haas. TDD users may contact the Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service at (800) 654-5984 to discuss how the Department can best accommodate their needs.

The Department must receive comments no later than Monday, September 21, 2015. Commentators are encouraged to submit comments using the Department's eComment at www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eComment. Written comments can be submitted to The Policy Office, Department of Environmental Protection, Rachel Carson State Office Building, P.O. Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063, or by email to ecomment@pa.gov. Use "2011 Base Year Inventory" as the subject line in written communication.

JOHN QUIGLEY,
Secretary