

PROPOSED EIGHT-HOUR OZONE ATTAINMENT/NONATTAINMENT DESIGNATION RECOMMENDATIONS

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 July 1997, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated the 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS). The revised ozone standard of 0.08 parts per million, measured over an 8-hour period, is more protective of public health than the one-hour health-based ozone standard. Section 107 of the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) requires EPA to make designations (attainment, nonattainment or unclassifiable) for new or revised NAAQS within one year of promulgation of the standard. However, implementation of the 8-hour ozone health-based standard had been delayed due to legal challenges.

The Governor of each state must now submit designation recommendations to EPA in accordance with Section 107(d) of the CAA. These recommendations will be based on air quality monitoring data (and other criteria) obtained for the three-year period preceding the recommendations.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is seeking public input on the proposed 8-hour ozone designation recommendations. Air quality information obtained during 2000-2002 indicates that EPA may designate at least 33 counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as 8-hour ozone nonattainment areas. Pennsylvania will recommend to EPA that boundaries for the designated areas generally follow metropolitan area and county boundaries. This approach is similar to the methodology used for designating areas under the 1-hour ozone health-based standard.

This proposal is available on the DEP Website at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us> (choose Subject/Air Quality/Ozone/Clean Air Plans), or through the contact person(s) listed below. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection will hold public informational meetings on Tuesday, July 29, 2003 at 1:30 PM at its offices at the following locations:

Hearing Room
Lee Park, Suite 6010
555 North Lane
Conshohocken, PA

Susquehanna Room
Two Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, PA

Susquehanna Room
909 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA

Goddard Conference Room
208 West Third St.
Suite 101
Williamsport, PA

Waterfront A and B
Conference Rooms
400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA

Main Conference Room
230 Chestnut Street
Meadville, PA

Green Room Conference Room
400 Market Street, 15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA

For more information on the public meetings, please contact Susan Ferree at 717-787-9495 (sferree@state.pa.us). Persons with a disability who wish to attend a meeting and require an auxiliary aid, service or other accommodation to participate in the proceeding should also contact Susan Ferree. 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 J. Wick Havens, Chief, Air Resource Management Division, Bureau of Air Quality, P.O. Box 8468, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8468 or by e-mail (preferred) to jhavens@state.pa.us no later than 4:00 PM on August 11, 2003. Written comments (including e-mail submittals) must include the name, affiliation (if any), mailing address and telephone number of the interested person.