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## Air Quality

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### Regulatory State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revisions

#### Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT III)

The rulemaking was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on November 12, 2022. The Federally mandated deadline for compliance by regulated facilities was January 1, 2023. A SIP revision was submitted to EPA on January 13, 2023, for their review and action. However, 25 Pa. Code § 129.115(c) (relating to written notification, compliance demonstration and recordkeeping and reporting requirements), was not included in the SIP revision due to administrative and mathematical errors in the mass-equivalent basis factors. To correct these errors and a cross-reference error in § 129.115(d), the Department drafted revised language which it presented to the Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (AQTAC), the CAC and the EQB on April 4, May 14 and November 12, 2024, respectively. The proposed rulemaking was published for public comment on January 25, 2025. Public hearings were held, and no comments were received from the public or IRRC. DEP presented the final-form rulemaking to AQTAC and CAC on May 8 and May 13, 2025, respectively. On September 9, 2025 DEP presented this rulemaking to the EQB who adopted it unanimously. The Corrections to Additional RACT Requirements for Major Sources of NO<sub>x</sub> and VOCs for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS (RACT 3) Final Regulation has been published in the December 6, 2025 issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin at 55 Pa.B. 8231.

Air Quality regional staff have reviewed 65 of 71 RACT II equals RACT III determinations and 41 of 81 case by-case RACT determinations received from major sources of NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC. A public comment period and hearing is being offered for each of these permitting actions. DEP submitted 57 RACT II equals RACT III determinations to EPA on October 30, 2024, and 18 RACT III case-by-case determinations to EPA on January 15, 2025. On October 28, 2025, DEP submitted 20 case-by-case RACT determinations to EPA.

### Delegation of Federal Plans

The Department is proposing to amend 25 Pa. Code Chapter 122 to provide the express legal authority for the Department to request delegation of authority from the EPA to implement and enforce the requirements of an applicable Federal Plan established by the EPA in 40 CFR Part 62. The Department presented the draft proposed regulation to AQTAC, SBCAC and the CAC on April 4, April 17 and May 14, 2024, respectively. The EQB adopted the proposed regulation on April 8, 2025. The notice of the public comment period was published in the Pa. Bulletin on June 21, 2025, and closed on August 29, 2025. Twenty-One commentators provided comment during the comment period. The draft final-form rulemaking is being presented to the advisory committees.

### Chapter 121/127 Administrative Amendments

This proposed rulemaking would update administrative provisions in the Department's air pollution control regulations. The regulations include definitions for terms that apply to the air resources management program (Chapter 121) and the permitting and operating plan requirements for air pollution sources in Pennsylvania (Chapter 127). The proposed rulemaking was presented to AQTAC and SBCAC on 11/6/25 and 11/20/25, respectively. Most significantly, an amendment to 25 PA Code § 127.505 is needed to correct the deadline for submitting an initial application for a Title V operating permit application to be within 12 months of beginning operation, aligning to the CAA.

### Non-Regulatory SIP Revisions

2010 Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) Redesignation

On February 22, 2023, the EPA Region III Administrator sent Governor Shapiro a “120-Day Letter” proposing to reclassify several townships in Westmoreland County and Cambria County from “attainment” to “nonattainment” for the 2010 sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) NAAQS. The Department reviewed the technical support document accompanying the “120-Day Letter” and responded with comments on June 22, 2023.

On February 7, 2024, EPA proposed creating a new 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS non-attainment area, specifically Lower Yoder Township (Cambria County); St Clair Township, Seward Borough (Westmoreland County), and New Florence Borough (Westmoreland County). EPA published a 45-day public comment period on February 12, 2024. On December 17, 2024, EPA published reclassification of the area from “attainment” to “nonattainment” effective January 16, 2025. Within 18 months of the effective date, DEP is required to submit a state implementation plan (SIP) to EPA demonstrating how the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS will be attained in these partial counties. On February 17, 2025, Seward Generation filed a Petition for Administrative Reconsideration with EPA. DEP is moving forward with revising the SIP and working with the companies to submit a modeling clean data determination.

#### **2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards**

On July 30, 2024, EPA approved Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey’s request to voluntary reclassify the multistate Philadelphia Area from moderate to serious for the 2015 ozone standard. The reclassification avoids an EPA finding of failure to attain the 2015 ozone standard, disapproval of DEP’s September 2023 attainment demonstration and a sanction clock. The serious nonattainment area SIP revision is due to EPA by January 1, 2026, with a new attainment date of August 3, 2027.

#### **Warren SO<sub>2</sub> Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan**

On May 10, 2025, DEP opened the public comment period for the Warren Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for the 2010 1-hour primary SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. The public comment period closed on June 20, 2025. A public hearing to receive comments was held on June 17, 2025, at the Warren Public Library. The SIP was submitted to EPA on September 19, 2025.

#### **Beaver SO<sub>2</sub> Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan**

Effective December 18, 2025, Beaver County Pennsylvania was redesignated from nonattainment to attainment for the 2010 1-hour primary SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. The maintenance plan was submitted by DEP to EPA on August 12, 2024, as a revision to the Pennsylvania SIP. EPA published a notice of proposed rulemaking approving the redesignation request and maintenance plan on July 24, 2025. The EPA received no comments during the public comment period that closed on August 25, 2025. EPA issued final approval of the Beaver Area Maintenance Plan and Redesignation to Attainment November 18, 2025.

#### **Harrisburg/York PM 2.5 Air Quality Maintenance Plan**

On September 28, 2024, DEP opened the public comment period for the Harrisburg/York Air Quality Maintenance Plan for the 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS. The Department provided the opportunity for a public hearing on October 30, 2024, at Rachel Carson State Office Building. The public comment period ended on November 1, 2024. After preparing a Comment and Response document, DEP submitted the SIP revision to EPA on February 7, 2025.

## PM2.5 NAAQS

On February 7, 2024, EPA lowered the annual National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5 NAAQS) from 12.0 to 9.0 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). EPA identified seven Pennsylvania counties in non-attainment based on 2020-2022 air quality monitoring data.

On December 21, 2024, DEP published four proposed non-attainment areas: Allegheny County; Cumberland, Dauphin and York Counties; Lancaster County; and Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties. Public hearings were held on January 21 and 23 and the public comment period was extended to January 28, 2025. DEP submitted its PM2.5 non-attainment recommendations to EPA on April 24, 2025.

## PM2.5 Exceptional Event Analysis

On February 15, 2025, the Department published for public comment an Exceptional Event Analysis for PM2.5 in York County for elevated levels of fine particulate matter caused by the summer of 2024 Canadian wildfires. The public comment period ended on March 17, 2025, and no public comments were received. DEP submitted its Exceptional Event Analysis to EPA on May 7, 2025.

## 2008 Ozone NAAQS VOC RACT

On August 13, 2018, DEP submitted to EPA two SIP revisions to satisfy certain RACT requirements for sources of VOC emissions required for the 2008 8-hour ozone NAAQS. On December 14, 2020, EPA published a full approval of the SIP submittals. The approval was challenged in the Third Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and on September 3, 2021, the court granted EPA's request for remand without vacatur of the Agency's final full approval. After reconsideration, EPA proposed on May 17, 2024, to partially approve and partially disapprove the August 13, 2018, SIP submittals. EPA proposed disapproval of the SIP submittals related to Control Technique Guidelines (CTGs) and control of VOC emissions from industrial cleaning solvents. DEP submitted comments on June 13, 2024. On August 16, 2024, EPA published its partial approval/disapproval with an effective date of September 16, 2024, starting an 18-month sanctions clock. On September 27, 2025, PADEP provided public notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin of the opportunity to comment, from September 27 to October 31, 2025, on this proposed SIP revision Certifying RACT for CTG under the 2008 and 2015 8-hour NAAQS (48 Pa. B. 3644). DEP is currently finalizing the SIP document for submission to EPA.

## O&G Methane State Plan (OOOOc)

BAQ presented the Department's proposal to incorporate the federal Emissions Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions from Existing Crude Oil & Natural Gas Facilities (40 CFR Part 60 Subpart OOOOc) into a State Plan to AQTAC, SBCAC, MSC, CAC/EJAB and CDAC on October 10, October 23, October 29, November 12 and December 12, 2024 respectively. The Department presented its proposal a second time to AQTAC and SBCAC on February 6 and 26, 2025, respectively. The Department hosted a public webinar concerning the OOOOc State Plan on April 1, 2025. The proposed OOOOc State Plan was published for public comment in the May 31, 2025, Pa Bulletin. The Department held six in-person and two virtual hearings. The comment period closed on July 30, 2025. The Department must submit its State Plan to EPA no later than January 22, 2027.