



## Division of Air Pollution Control

### Columbus Eight-Hour Ozone Draft Attainment Demonstration

#### Agency Contact for this Package

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Ohio EPA held a public hearing in Columbus, OH on January 6, 2009, regarding the attainment demonstration for the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard for the Columbus area. This document summarizes the comments and questions received at the public hearing and during the associated comment period, which ended on January 9, 2009.

Ohio EPA reviewed and considered all comments received during the public comment period. By law, Ohio EPA has authority to consider specific issues related to protection of the environment and public health.

In an effort to help you review this document, the questions are grouped by topic and organized in a consistent format. The name of the commenter follows the comment in parentheses.

#### General/Overall Concerns

**Comment 1:**           **The commenter expressed concern regarding the time the hearing was held. Specifically, the commenter felt that meetings at 2:30 p.m. tend to decrease public participation and may be difficult for persons with nine-to-five jobs to attend. (Nachy Kanfer, representing the Sierra Club National Coal Campaign in Ohio)**

**Response 1:**           Ohio EPA recognizes that it may be difficult for some stakeholders to attend public hearings held during normal business hours. In determining when a public hearing is to be held, Ohio EPA takes into consideration the expected attendance, historical interest in general, and the interest expected for the hearing to be conducted. While Ohio EPA recognizes some stakeholders may prefer public hearings held after business hours, Ohio EPA has also received requests historically expressing preference for daytime hearings, especially for those who are attending the hearing as a course of their business. Ohio EPA will continue to take into consideration preferences of the participants and evaluate an appropriate time for each public hearing on an individual basis. It is also important to

note that Ohio EPA also accepts written comments as part of the official record and finds that most stakeholders prefer to submit comments in writing. Whether comments are provided as testimony at a public hearing or provided as written comments, all comments are considered equally. Those wishing to submit written comments do not need to be present at the hearing.

**Comment 2:**           **The commenter wanted clarification on how the NOx Budget Trading Program and the reinstatement of CAIR would impact the Columbus area. (Nachy Kanfer, representing the Sierra Club National Coal Campaign in Ohio)**

**Response 2:**           Reductions from the NOx Budget Trading Program (i.e., "NOx SIP Call") have a positive, regional effect on ozone levels across the State, including Columbus. The NOx Budget Trading Program established a cap and trade program during the ozone season for all power plants to reduce NOx emissions. As of January 1, 2009, the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) superseded the NOx Budget Trading Program for all electric generating units (EGUs) ("power plants") in the Eastern United States. CAIR will control NOx emissions year-round, rather than just during the ozone season. Modeling for the attainment demonstration shows that with CAIR, Columbus will continue to attain the 8-hour ozone standard.