



Division of Air Pollution Control

Ohio's Eight-Hour 2008 Ozone Standard Draft Area Designation Recommendation

Agency Contact for this Package

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Ohio EPA held a public hearing in Columbus, OH on February 12, 2009, regarding the 2008 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard designation recommendations for the State of Ohio. This document summarizes the comments and questions received at the public hearing and during the associated comment period, which ended on February 16, 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

General/Overall Concerns

Comment 1: Today, I read that Ashtabula County is above air limits. This is rural county with no real industry. If not for I-90 we would be below the limits. There are a lot of trucks on this highway as well as cars and it seems to me were being punished for this. Perhaps the EPA should check the cars and trucks using I-90 instead of the people who live here. (C Collins)

I've lived in the Akron Canton area since 1959 and our air is just fine. I can remember when as you crossed the old Viaduct Bridge into Akron you hit the wall of stink and knew you were in Akron. Now you could drive blindfolded from Boston Heights to Canton and unless someone told you you'd never know you passed through Akron. I do not think it is fair to any section of the developed northeast quadrant to have to meet a clean air standard set by an almost uninhabited region like the state of Washington. Here in Summit County we have as many people as in North and South Dakota combined, and we have 87 counties left. We do not need tougher clean air standards what we really need is tougher vehicle mileage standards.

Your policies and the financial health of this country and its people are seriously in conflict. One last thought, if your agency had actually been doing its job the whole S.U.V craze would never have seen the light of day. What we need is a moratorium on freeway construction. And a return to building only two lane 50mph highways with intersections and traffic controls. Thank you. (Ray Crim)

Response 1: U.S. EPA promulgated the revised 8-hour ozone standard in March of 2008. Ohio EPA is required to prepare recommendations based on nine factors, including current air quality data from monitors all over the state. The nine factors are discussed in the SIP document for which comments were taken. Mobile source emissions are one of the nine factors considered by the Ohio EPA when recommending a county be designated nonattainment. The Ohio Division of Transportation (ODOT) provides Ohio EPA with future year predicted vehicle emissions. By March 2010 U.S. EPA will make a final determination on which counties will be nonattainment for this new standard. Over the next several years, Ohio EPA will be required to implement programs to bring these nonattainment areas into compliance with the new standard. During that process, Ohio EPA will prepare plans for public notice and public comment. These plans and programs for achieving attainment will take into consideration mobile sources. We urge the commenters to continue to participate by submitting comments on Ohio's future plans for achieving attainment.

Comment 2: The commenter is concerned about the air quality in Summit County, Ohio. Specifically, open burning by others in her community which she reports to the local air quality control in Akron. (Beverly Richards)

Response 2: Thank you for your comment concerning the air quality in your region. The Ohio EPA strives to constantly improve air quality for all Ohio citizens. Ohio EPA encourages the commenter to continue to contact Akron Local Air Agency about concerns regarding open burning as you witness them occurring.

Comment 3: The commenter supports the Ohio EPA ozone designation recommendations and would like Ohio EPA to achieve ozone levels of .07ppm or below. The commenter would also like Ohio EPA to implement opacity and anti-idling programs throughout the state, and encouraged Ohio EPA to continue the Diesel Emission Reduction Grant Program. (David Celebrezze representing the Ohio Environmental Council)

Response 3: Thank you for your support of the Ohio EPA recommended ozone designations. In the near future, Ohio EPA will begin development of plans to bring the nonattainment areas into attainment with the revised standard of 0.075 ppb. Quite often these plans result in achieving even lower monitored values, indicating even greater improvements in air quality than expected. As Ohio EPA begins the process of exploring methods to achieve this revised standard, and other standards, it will likely be necessary to implement additional controls within Ohio. We urge the commenter to continue to participate by submitting comments on Ohio's future plans for achieving attainment.

Comment 4: The commenter supports the Ohio EPA recommendation to designate Clark, Greene, and Montgomery Counties as non-attainment and Miami County as attainment. (John Paul representing the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency in Dayton, Ohio)

Response 4: Thank you for your support of the Ohio EPA recommended ozone designations for the Dayton area.