

Ozone Advance

EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
February 22, 2012

Overview

- **Why should attainment areas work to address ozone if they are not required to?**
- **What is Ozone Advance?**
- **How does Ozone Advance relate to past programs?**
- **How might Ozone Advance benefit you?**
- **What is EPA's plan for getting the program started?**
- **What will happen once the program has begun?**
- **How does the timing of the program relate to the timing for NAAQS implementation?**
- **Questions**

Why should attainment areas work to address ozone if they are not required to?

- Ensure continued **health** protection
- **Less resource intensive** to put measures in place now than to deal with nonattainment requirements
- More **flexibility** to pursue a wide range of options
- **Proactive**
 - Could better position some areas to avoid a nonattainment designation
 - If eventually designated, could provide needed reductions that could result in a lower classification and/or that could feed into any eventual SIP
- EPA could consider early efforts as a **factor in exercising its discretion to redesignate** areas not violating in 2008-10 but violating in later years to nonattainment
- Multi-pollutant **co-benefits**
- Increased public **awareness**; **stakeholder group formation**

What is Ozone Advance?

Ozone Advance is a collaborative effort by EPA, states, tribes, and local communities to encourage emission reductions in ozone attainment areas, to help them continue to meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS).

Program Goals:

- (1) Help attainment areas take action in order to keep ozone levels below the level of the standard to ensure continued health protection,
- (2) Better position areas to remain in attainment,
- (3) Efficiently direct available resources toward actions to address ozone problems quickly.

What is Ozone Advance? (cont.)

**Participation is
not mandatory**

**Program does not
provide regulatory
flexibility**

There are no guarantees!

How Does Ozone Advance Relate to Past Programs?

- **2002 Early Action Compact (EAC) Program**
 - **Different from Ozone Advance in that it deferred nonattainment designations for participating areas as long as they met milestones**
 - **Similar to Ozone Advance in that it encouraged local measures, stakeholder group development**
- **2001 (1-hr), 2006 (8-hr) Ozone Flex Program**
 - **Ozone Advance is based largely on Ozone Flex**
 - **Differences include:**
 - **Expanded eligibility**
 - **Streamlined process**

How Might Ozone Advance Benefit You?

- **Framework for action**
- **EPA support**
- **Rallying point for public/stakeholder awareness and involvement**
- **Possible recognition**
- **Opportunity to highlight measures/programs already underway along with those undertaken as part of Program**

Program Startup

- **Draft program guidance out for review through Feb. 24**
- **Questions may be referred to:**
 - Laura Bunte**
 - EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards**
 - (919) 541-0889**
 - Bunte.Laura@epa.gov**
- **Official program kickoff anticipated by mid-March 2012**

Participation



- States, tribes, and local governments may sign up as soon as the program begins; no deadline for sign up but must sign up as an attainment area/before any eventual nonattainment designation
- A program website will be available when the program begins
- Participants will develop a “path forward” by no later than 1 year from sign up
- Implementation of path forward measures/programs should occur as soon as possible
- Informal status check-ins at least annually

Timing

(current as of Feb. 2012; dates tentative)

Ozone Advance

March 2012:

Program begins, areas start to sign up

Late 2012/early 2013:

Decisions on path forward, begin implementation of measures/programs

ASAP – 2017:

Implementation, with addition of measures/programs if needed



Ozone NAAQS

Mid-2012:

Final designations for 2008 NAAQS designations*

Mid-2014:

Completion of next NAAQS review, including any necessary revisions

Mid-2015:

2008 NAAQS Marginal area attainment date, attainment SIPs due for other 2008 NAAQS nonattainment areas, state recommendations due re. designations for any revised 2014 NAAQS

Mid-2016:

Final designations for any revised 2014 ozone NAAQS

Mid-2018:

2008 NAAQS Moderate area attainment date

2019:

Attainment SIPs due for any revised 2014 NAAQS

Contacts

- **Questions about Ozone Advance**

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Questions?