

Fact Sheet — Final Area Designations for the 1-Hour Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Sulfur Dioxide Established in 2010 (Round 3)

ACTIONS

- On December 21, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took an additional step to implement the health-based national air quality standard for sulfur dioxide (SO₂) set in 2010. EPA has identified or “designated” areas:
 - “nonattainment” – not meeting the 1-hour health based national air quality standard for SO₂ (six areas in three states and two territories),
 - “unclassifiable” – not enough information to make a determination (23 areas in ten states), or
 - “attainment/unclassifiable” - meeting the standard and not contributing to a violation of the standard (all remaining areas except where additional SO₂ air quality monitoring is underway).

The table at the end of this fact sheet provides further details for each area.

- On June 3, 2010, the EPA strengthened the health-based or “primary” standard for SO₂ by establishing a 1-hour standard at a level of 75 parts per billion. On July 25, 2013, the EPA designated 29 areas in 16 states as nonattainment, but did not at that time designate other areas (Round 1). A March 2, 2015, court-ordered schedule, required the agency to complete the remaining SO₂ designations by three specific deadlines: July 2, 2016 (completed), December 31, 2017 (Round 3), and December 31, 2020 (Round 4).
- To meet the December 2017 deadline, EPA has designated areas “nonattainment,” “unclassifiable,” or “attainment/unclassifiable” after evaluating:
 - air quality modeling and monitoring data used to characterize SO₂ air quality;
 - emissions limits established to control sources of SO₂; and
 - areas not subject to EPA’s SO₂ Data Requirements Rule.
- These final designations will take effect 90 days after the notice is published in the *Federal Register*.
- All remaining areas will be designated by December 31, 2020. For these areas, states chose to install and operate new monitors. The monitors will allow them to generate three full calendar years of data to inform the designation.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATED AREAS

Nonattainment Areas

- The Clean Air Act requires air agencies to take steps to control pollution in SO₂ nonattainment areas. Those steps may include stricter controls on industrial facilities.

- State and local governments detail these steps in plans that demonstrate how they will meet the SO₂ standard. Those plans are known as state implementation plans (SIPs). States have 18 months after the effective date of final designations to develop and submit their plans to EPA.
- Once designated, nonattainment areas are subject to Nonattainment New Source Review requirements. New Source Review is a permitting program for industrial facilities to ensure that new and modified sources of pollution do not impede progress toward cleaner air.
- Nonattainment areas are required to meet the standard as quickly as possible, but no later than five years after the effective date of final designation. Six months after that date, EPA must determine whether the area has attained the standard. If EPA determines that an area has failed to meet the standard, the state has 12 months to submit a SIP revision that demonstrates that the area will attain the standard within five years of EPA's determination.

Attainment/Unclassifiable Areas

- For attainment areas that have sources covered by the Data Requirements Rule, states must periodically provide EPA with updates on the air quality in those area. Where states choose to use SO₂ monitors, the data are reported to EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) annually, with a May 1 certification deadline for the prior year's air quality readings. Where states have chosen to assess air quality using modeling, the rule requires annual emissions reports to be submitted to EPA by July 1 of each year, and must include the state's assessment of whether emissions have changed in a manner that would warrant a new modeling assessment.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to issue designations after the agency sets a new National Ambient Air Quality Standard or revises an existing standard. Areas not meeting the standard are designated "nonattainment."
- In June 2010, EPA set a 1-hour, health-based national air quality standard for SO₂ at 75 parts per billion. The revised standard will improve public health protection, especially for children, the elderly and people with asthma. These groups are susceptible to health problems, including narrowing of the airways which can cause difficulty breathing and increased asthma symptoms, associated with breathing SO₂.

Round 1:

- In July 2013, after reviewing input from the states, EPA designated 29 areas in 16 states as nonattainment for the 2010 SO₂ standard.

Round 2:

- On June 30, 2016, and November 29, 2016, EPA designated 65 areas in 24 states as:
 - “attainment/unclassifiable” - meeting the 1-hour health based national air quality standard for sulfur dioxide (41 areas),
 - “nonattainment” – not meeting the standard (7 areas), or
 - “unclassifiable” – not enough information to make a determination (17 areas).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- For more information on the designation process for the SO₂ standard go to EPA’s Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations>.

Round 3 Area Designations - Completed December 2017

State	Area Name	Counties (p) = partial county	EPA Final Designation
Alabama*	Escambia County	Escambia	Unclassifiable
	Mobile County	Mobile	Unclassifiable
	Morgan County	Morgan	Unclassifiable
	Pike County,	Pike	Unclassifiable
	Shelby County, AL	Shelby (p)	Unclassifiable
	Washington County	Washington	Unclassifiable
		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Alaska		Entire State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
American Samoa		Entire Territory	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Arizona	Coconino County (p)	Coconino (p) Navajo Nation	Unclassifiable
		Lands of the Navajo Nation (p)	Attainment/Unclassifiable
		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Arkansas		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
California		Entire State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Colorado		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
		Southern Ute Indian Reservation	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands		Entire Territory	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Connecticut		Entire State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Delaware		Entire State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
District of Columbia		Entire District	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Florida	Citrus County, FL	Citrus (p)	Unclassifiable
	Hillsborough-Polk County, FL	Hillsborough (p) Polk (p)	Nonattainment
	Mulberry, FL Area	Hillsborough (p) Polk (p)	Unclassifiable
		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Georgia*		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Guam	Piti-Cabras	Piti-Cabras	Nonattainment
		Rest of Territory	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Hawaii*		Kalawao County	Attainment/Unclassifiable
		Kauai County	Attainment/Unclassifiable
		Maui County	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Idaho		Entire State	Attainment/Unclassifiable

State	Area Name	Counties (p) = partial county	EPA Final Designation
Illinois*		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Indiana*	Huntington, IN	Huntington (p)	Nonattainment
		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Iowa	Linn County, IA	Linn	Unclassifiable
		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Kansas		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Kentucky*		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Louisiana*	Evangeline Parish, LA	Evangeline Parish (p)	Nonattainment
	St. Mary Parish	St. Mary	Unclassifiable
		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Maine		Entire State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Maryland*		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Massachusetts		Entire State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Michigan		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Minnesota	Goodhue County	Goodhue	Unclassifiable
		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Mississippi		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Missouri*		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Montana		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Nebraska*		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Nevada		Entire State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
New Hampshire		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
New Jersey		Entire State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
New Mexico		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
New York*	Monroe County	Monroe	Unclassifiable
		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
North Carolina*		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
North Dakota*		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Ohio		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Oklahoma*		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Oregon		Entire State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Pennsylvania*	Allegheny	Allegheny (p)	Unclassifiable
	Cambria County	Cambria	Unclassifiable
	Carbon-Schuylkill Area	Carbon Schuylkill	Unclassifiable
	Clearfield County	Clearfield	Unclassifiable
	Lawrence County	Lawrence	Unclassifiable

State	Area Name	Counties (p) = partial county	EPA Final Designation
	Lehigh Northampton Area	Lehigh Northampton	Unclassifiable
		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Puerto Rico (municipalities)	San Juan, PR	Cataño Toa Baja (p) San Juan (p) Guaynabo (p) Bayamon (p)	Nonattainment
	Guayama-Salinas, PR	Salinas (p)	Nonattainment
		Rest of Territory	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Rhode Island		Entire State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
South Carolina		Entire State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
South Dakota		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Tennessee		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Texas*		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Utah		Entire State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Vermont		Entire State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Virginia*	Buchanan County	Buchanan	Unclassifiable
		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Virgin Islands		Entire Territory	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Washington*	Lewis County	Lewis	Unclassifiable
	Thurston County	Thurston	Unclassifiable
		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
West Virginia*	Wood County	Wood	Unclassifiable
		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Wisconsin*		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Wyoming*		Rest of State	Attainment/Unclassifiable

*Areas remain that will be designated by December 31, 2020. "Rest of State" in these cases means all areas of the state except for those that will be designated by December 31, 2020. For these areas, states chose to install and operate new monitors.