

## Proposed Federal Implementation Plan for the Detroit Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area

Wayne County, Michigan

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**We would like to hear from you!**

### Contact EPA

For more information about the site contact:

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You may call EPA's Chicago office toll-free at 800-621-8431, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

**Comments on the proposed action must be received on or before July 18, 2022.**

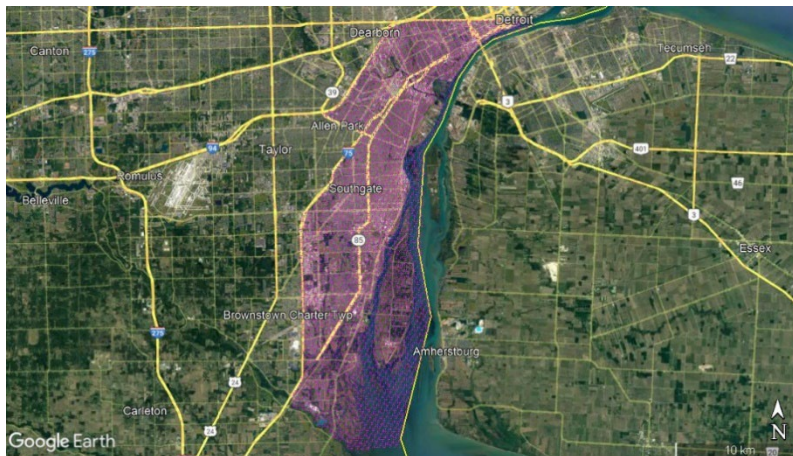
You may submit comments, identified by **Docket ID No. EPA-R05-OAR-2021-0536**, at <http://www.regulations.gov> or via email to [arra.sarah@epa.gov](mailto:arra.sarah@epa.gov).

More information on the submission of written comments can be found in the notice of proposed rulemaking:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/06/01/2022-11269/approval-and-promulgation-of-air-quality-implementation-plans-michigan-federal-implementation-plan>

Site documents can be found on the following website:

<https://www.epa.gov/mi/detroit-so2-federal-implementation-plan>



*Map of Detroit Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area*

Image credit: Google Earth

The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing a Federal Implementation Plan, or FIP, for attaining the 2010 sulfur dioxide, or SO<sub>2</sub>, primary national ambient air quality standard, referred to as NAAQS, for the Detroit SO<sub>2</sub> nonattainment area in Wayne County, Michigan. The area is bounded on the east by the Michigan-Ontario border, on the south by the Wayne County-Monroe County border, on the west by Interstate 75 north to Southfield Road, Southfield Road to Interstate 94, and Interstate 94 north to Michigan Avenue, and on the north by Michigan Avenue to Woodward Avenue and a line on Woodward Avenue extended to the Michigan-Ontario border. The FIP includes an attainment demonstration and other elements required under the Clean Air Act.

The proposed FIP attainment strategy includes previously approved limits for the DTE Energy Trenton Channel coal-fired powerplant and the Carmeuse Lime facility, as well as the shutdown of the DTE Energy River Rouge coal-fired powerplant.

The proposed FIP regulatory language includes new SO<sub>2</sub> emission limits throughout the U.S. Steel facility. Additionally, the FIP includes several new requirements for U.S. Steel's Boilerhouse 2, including the requirement to combine and raise its stacks to increase dispersion, new limits, and installation of a new Continuous Emissions Monitoring System.

EPA evaluated two separate operating scenarios as part of its modeling analysis based on the separate limits proposed for U.S. Steel Boilerhouse 2. In both scenarios, the modeling for the Detroit area showed a maximum concentration of 73.6 parts per billion, or ppb, which is below the health-based standard of 75 ppb.

The maximum modeled concentration resulted from modeling all units at maximum permitted levels based on the proposed emission limits included in the FIP or emission limits that EPA has already approved, or maximum uncontrolled emissions.

## Site Background

On June 22, 2010, EPA published a new 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS of 75 ppb. Then on August 5, 2013, EPA designated 29 areas of the country as nonattainment for the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS, including the Detroit area within the state of Michigan.

Section 191 of the Clean Air Act directs states to submit state implementation plans for areas designated as nonattainment for the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS to EPA within 18 months of the effective date of the designation. Nonattainment is defined as any area that does not meet (or that contributes to ambient air quality in a nearby area that does not meet) the national primary or secondary ambient air quality standard for a NAAQS.

For a number of nonattainment areas, including the Detroit area, EPA published an action on March 18, 2016, finding that Michigan and other pertinent states had failed to submit the required SO<sub>2</sub> nonattainment plan by the submittal deadline. Under Clean Air Act section 110(c), the finding triggered a requirement that EPA publish a FIP within two years of the finding unless, by that time, (a) the state had made the necessary complete submittal, and (b) EPA had approved the submittal as meeting applicable requirements.

Michigan submitted a Detroit SO<sub>2</sub> attainment plan on May 31, 2016. However, on March 19, 2021, EPA partially approved and partially disapproved Michigan's SO<sub>2</sub> plan as submitted in 2016. EPA disapproved the plan's control measures for two facilities as not demonstrating attainment. Therefore, EPA is proposing a FIP for the Detroit SO<sub>2</sub> nonattainment area to help reduce SO<sub>2</sub>.

Reduced SO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere means cleaner, healthier air for the residents of Detroit, especially children, the elderly, and those who suffer from asthma. Reduced levels of SO<sub>2</sub> and other sulfur oxides are also beneficial for the environment. A decrease in these compounds means less haze and acid rain, which can harm sensitive ecosystems. This action is in line with EPA's agency-wide commitment to advance environmental justice and deliver benefits to underserved and overburdened communities.

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### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- To download a copy of the proposed action, visit: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/03/19/2021-05508/air-plan-approval-michigan-partial-approval-and-partial-disapproval-of-the-detroit-so2>.
- The proposed action and other background information are also available electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-R05-OAR-2021-0536.
- To review EPA's environmental justice policies and mandates, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/learn-about-environmental-justice>
- For further technical information about the rule, please contact Abigail Teener with EPA's Region 5 Air and Radiation Division, at (312) 353-7314 or [DetroitFIP@epa.gov](mailto:DetroitFIP@epa.gov).

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Comments on the proposed action must be received on or before July 18, 2022. You may submit comments at <https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-R05-OAR-2021-0536-0001> or via email to [arra.sarah@epa.gov](mailto:arra.sarah@epa.gov). For comments submitted at <http://www.regulations.gov>, follow the online instructions for submitting comments.