

Fact Sheet

Proposed Rule: Ozone Reclassification State Implementation Plan Rule

Summary of Action

- On June 9, 2026, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed revisions to portions of the Biden EPA’s January 2025 final rule, which required states to keep certain State Implementation Plan (SIP) requirements tied to an area’s prior ozone nonattainment classification under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), even after that area had been reclassified.
- The agency’s proposal would make it so that upon reclassification, only the area’s new classification level would govern what SIP requirements are due. The proposed rule, if finalized, will be applicable to all past and future reclassifications associated with the 2008, 2015, and any future ozone NAAQS.

Proposed Revisions

- The Trump EPA is proposing that under the best reading of Clean Air Act (CAA) sections 181 and 182, upon reclassification, an area’s only SIP planning obligations are those that are associated with the area’s current classification.
- The proposed changes are consistent with the CAA that states an area can only be subject to a single classification at a given time.
- Under this proposal, if a required SIP element for an area’s new classification level was previously satisfied when the area was at a lower classification, the requirement will be considered fulfilled and will not be due upon reclassification.

Background

- In 2018, EPA promulgated a rulemaking articulating the CAA’s nonattainment area implementation requirements for each classification level for the 2015 ozone NAAQS. It also established submission deadlines for plan revisions to address requirements that were triggered by the date of an areas’ initial nonattainment designation for the 2015 ozone NAAQS.
- On January 25, 2025, the Biden EPA finalized a rulemaking titled, *State Implementation Plan Submittal Deadlines and Implementation Requirements for Reclassified Nonattainment Areas Under the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards*. That rulemaking applied to all active ozone standards, including the 2008 and 2015 ozone NAAQS.
 - That rulemaking established universal SIP submittal deadlines for reclassified ozone nonattainment areas, which EPA is not reconsidering at this time.
 - That rulemaking also codified a policy that, upon reclassification, certain lower classification requirements currently remain due (also known as the “leftover” SIPs policy). That is the policy that is the subject of the Trump EPA’s proposed rulemaking.

How to Comment

- EPA will accept comments for 30 days after the proposal is published in the *Federal Register*.
- Comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0201, may be submitted via one of the

following methods:

- Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/> and follow the online instructions for submitting a comment (our preferred method).
- Send an email message to a-and-r-docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0201.
- Fax your comments to: (202) 566-9744, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0201.
- Mail: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center, Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0201 Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460.
- Hand/Courier Delivery: EPA Docket Center, WJC West Building, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20004. The Docket Center's hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday (except federal holidays).

More Information

For more information on this action, visit EPA's website at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution/ozone-implementation-regulatory-actions>