

Updates to Clean Air Act State Implementation Plan



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard

In 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency revised the ozone standard from 75 parts per billion to 70 parts per billion. DEQ adopted the new standard in July 2017. When EPA revises a national ambient air quality standard, the Clean Air Act requires states to document within three years the regulations and programs in their State Implementation Plan designed to meet the new standard. By Oct. 1, 2018, DEQ must report to EPA on the programs DEQ has in place to maintain ozone levels, as well as how those programs effectively prevent pollution transport to neighboring states.

Programs to maintain ozone levels

DEQ created an Infrastructure State Implementation Plan by compiling a list of all the regulations and programs that control ozone forming pollution emissions. Examples of DEQ's pollution control and prevention strategies include DEQ's vehicle inspection and maintenance program, setting ambient and source specific standards, issuing and enforcing permits, requiring source reporting, and conducting statewide air monitoring. DEQ also has authority to assess fees and penalties, write permits, measure and test pollution sources, and declare air pollution emergencies.

Interstate ozone pollution transport

After EPA revises a national air quality standard, states also have three years to show that pollutant sources do not contribute to downwind areas with ozone standard attainment problems. EPA completed modeling to identify areas not meeting the ozone standard and potential upwind pollution sources. EPA modeling showed that Oregon emissions do not have a significant impact on downwind receptors. DEQ also reviewed the last 10 years of volatile organic compound and nitrogen oxide emissions, both of which form ozone when exposed to sunlight and high temperatures. Volatile organic and nitrogen oxide emissions have trended downward over the past 10 years, indicating DEQ's pollution control programs will likely continue to prevent significant contributions to downwind areas with ozone attainment problems.

Public comment period

DEQ posted a proposed rulemaking notice about these reports on its website at this location:
<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Regulations/Rulemaking/Pages/rinfrastucture2018.aspx>.

DEQ will hold a public hearing on Thursday, July 26, 2018, at DEQ, 700 NE Multnomah St., Conference Room 601, Portland, OR 97232, starting at 6 p.m. DEQ will accept comments at the hearing or in writing through 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 3. Please send written comments through the rulemaking website or mail them to the address above with Attn: Karen Williams.



DEQ air quality monitoring staff person recording data at an ambient air sampler.

Next steps

After the public comment period closes, DEQ will present a report and comment responses to the Environmental Quality Commission for its consideration at the EQC meeting in Sept. 2018. Upon adoption of the rule revision, DEQ will submit the reports to EPA.

Alternative formats

Documents can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request a document in another format or language, call DEQ in Portland at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696; or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.

Air Quality Division

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maintaining and enhancing
the quality of Oregon's air,
land and water.*