

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Public Notice

Attainment Demonstrations for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard for the Chicago Nonattainment Area and Metro-East Nonattainment Area

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (“Illinois EPA”) Bureau of Air is accepting comments on the draft “Attainment Demonstration for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard for the Chicago Nonattainment Area” and “Attainment Demonstration for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard for the Metro-East Nonattainment Area.” The Attainment Demonstrations will be submitted to United States Environmental Protection Agency (“USEPA”) as State Implementation Plan (“SIP”) revisions to address Sections 172 and 182(b) of the Federal Clean Air Act (“CAA”) and will address the federal requirements as set forth under Title 40: Protection of the Environment, Part 51 – Requirements for Preparation, Adoption, and Submittal of Implementation Plans. The Illinois EPA will also submit the 2017 base year inventory with the attainment demonstrations.

On June 4, 2018, USEPA designated portions of the Chicago metropolitan area and St. Louis Metro-East area as marginal nonattainment for the 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (“NAAQS”). The Chicago nonattainment area (“NAA”) includes Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties, as well as Aux Sable and Goose Lake Townships in Grundy County and Oswego Township in Kendall County. The Metro-East NAA includes Madison, St. Clair, and Monroe counties in Illinois, and St. Louis, St. Louis City, St. Charles, and Jefferson counties, as well as Boles Township in Franklin County in Missouri. The original deadline to attain the standard was August 3, 2021. On October 7, 2022, USEPA determined that the Chicago and Metro-East NAAs failed to attain the 2015 ozone NAAQS by the applicable date, causing the reclassification of the areas to moderate ozone nonattainment. As such, the State of Illinois was required by the Clean Air Act (“CAA”) for the 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard to develop a plan to attain the NAAQS by August 3, 2024. Although this date has passed and the areas are not yet in attainment of the standard, Illinois is still federally required to submit the plans.

As adjacent portions of neighboring states have also been designated nonattainment, Illinois has worked closely with USEPA and the states of Wisconsin, Indiana and Missouri, through the Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium (“LADCO”), to coordinate each state’s Attainment Demonstration. With the aid of LADCO, the states developed photochemical modeling inputs to drive a model that simulates the formation and transport of ozone in the Midwest. After an extensive performance evaluation, the modeling system was used to evaluate whether the identified emissions reduction strategy was adequate to demonstrate attainment of the 2015 ozone NAAQS by the deadline.

The modeling indicates that the selected strategy should have provided sufficient emission reductions to achieve attainment of the ozone standard at all locations in the Chicago and Metro-East NAAs. The modeling indicates that the states’ emission reduction strategy was sufficient to

demonstrate attainment for the 2015 ozone standard by August 3, 2024. However, following the attainment date, Illinois does not have clean monitoring data for the Metro-East NAA and is not yet attaining the standard.

Sections 172 and 182(b) of the CAA and USEPA's implementation rule, 40 CFR 51 Subpart CC for the 2015 ozone standard, specify the requirements for states to address in preparing attainment demonstrations. These include a demonstration of Reasonable Further Progress, Reasonably Available Control Technology, contingency measures that must be implemented if the NAA areas fail to achieve the Reasonable Further Progress reductions or fail to attain the NAAQS within the specified timeframe, motor vehicle emissions budgets to address transportation conformity, and a demonstration that Illinois has the legal authority and is committing the resources needed to implement this attainment plan. These requirements are addressed in these attainment demonstrations.

The Attainment Demonstrations are available for public inspection during regular business hours (Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except for State holidays) at the following Illinois EPA offices: 9511 W Harrison Street in Des Plaines, 847/294-4000; 1021 N. Grand Avenue East in Springfield, 217/786-0790; and 1101 Eastport Plaza Drive in Collinsville, 618/346-5120. You must call ahead to assure that someone will be available to assist you. Electronic copies of the documents may be available at Illinois EPA's website at <https://epa.illinois.gov/public-notices/general-notices.html>.

The Illinois EPA is accepting written comments and requests for public hearing regarding the proposed attainment demonstrations. **Written comments and requests for hearing must be received by the Illinois EPA by December 6, 2024.** Comments, questions, or requests for public hearing should be directed to Sarah Brubaker, Office of Community Relations, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276, phone 217/786-0790, TDD phone number 866/273-5488, sarah.brubaker@illinois.gov.

The physical address of the Illinois EPA is scheduled to change in the coming months, but the Post Office Box will remain the same. **Any mailed comments on the proposed attainment demonstrations should be submitted to the Illinois EPA Post Office Box.**

If a timely request for a public hearing is received by Illinois EPA prior to the end of the comment period, a public hearing will be scheduled through a separate notice and held to receive comments regarding the attainment demonstrations. If a public hearing is conducted, the written public comment period will be extended as provided for in the separate notice. The hearing will be held in accordance with the provisions of the Illinois EPA's "Procedures for Informational and Quasi-Legislative Public Hearings," set forth in 35 Ill. Adm. Code 164. If no request for a public hearing is received by December 6, 2024, no hearing will be scheduled. Verification as to whether a public hearing will or will not be held will be posted on the Illinois EPA's website within five business days subsequent to the end of the comment period. These notices will be posted at <https://epa.illinois.gov/public-notices/general-notices.html>.

This notice is intended to satisfy the requirements of Section 110(l) of the CAA regarding public notice for SIP submittals, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 7410(l).