

ITEM 12 - Information
July 21, 2004

Briefing on the New Air Quality Conformity Requirements for the Washington Region under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Recent 8-Hour Ozone Rule and on Proposed Non-attainment Area Designations for Fine Particles (PM 2.5)

Staff

Recommendation: Receive briefing on the new air quality conformity requirements under the 8-hour ozone rule, and on the proposed new non-attainment area designations for PM 2.5.

Issues: None

Background: The Board will be briefed on new air quality conformity requirements for the Washington region under the EPA's recent 8-hour ozone rule which were published in the *Federal Register* on July 1, 2004, and on the proposed new non-attainment area designations for PM 2.5 announced on June 29, 2004.

The New Air Quality Conformity Requirements for the Washington Region under the 8-Hour Ozone Rule and the Proposed Non-attainment Area Designations for Fine Particles (PM_{2.5})

Presentation to the
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
July 21, 2004

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Background

- The region's 2003 CLRP and FY 2004-2009 TIP meet Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) air quality conformity requirements for the 1-hour ozone standard non-attainment area (approved February 23, 2004)
- For the 8-hour ozone standard, the non-attainment area excludes Stafford County; the base year is 2002; and the attainment year is 2010
- July 1, 2004, EPA published in the *Federal Register* conformity requirements under the 8-hour ozone standard
- June 29, 2004, EPA proposed new non-attainment area designations for PM_{2.5} which will establish new conformity requirements for the region for PM_{2.5} standard

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Conformity Determination under the 1-hour and 8-Hour Ozone Standards

- Conformity determination for the draft 2004 CLRP and FY 2005-2010 TIP is underway under the current 1-hour standard – draft results due to TPB September 15, 2004
- For conformity under the 8-hour standard, need to analyze 2010 attainment year in addition to 1-hour milestone years (2005, 2015, 2025, 2030)
- Federal approval of conformity for the CLRP and TIP under the new 8-hour standard necessary by **June 15, 2005** or the region will be in a conformity lapse
- Need to move as expeditiously as possible to make a conformity determination under the 8-hour standard

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Conformity Requirements Under the 8-hour Standard

- 8-hour mobile emissions budgets in new State Implementation Plan (SIP) by 2007
- Choice on how 8-hour conformity test should be made in the interim (in particular, by June 15, 2005)
 - Use revised 1-hour budgets for 8-hour area, removing Stafford County emissions from budgets and from updated CLRP/TIP emissions estimates (*Option 1*)
 - Use existing 1-hour budgets for 1-hour area, retaining Stafford County emissions in both the budgets and the updated CLRP/TIP emissions (*Option 2*)
 - Consultation process determines choice between options 1 and 2

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Meeting the 8–Hour Conformity Requirements

- If revised 1-hour budgets are used for 8-hour area (Option 1), several months may be needed to calculate and review revised budgets and updated CLRP/TIP emissions to exclude Stafford County
- If existing 1-hour budgets are used for 1-hour area (Option 2), less calendar time needed to complete the conformity determination. (If additional emission reductions necessary to pass budget test, reductions must come from within 8-hour area.)
- Whichever option is chosen, work can begin immediately on the 2010 year highway, HOV and transit networks required for the 8-hour assessment

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Why Regulate Particle Pollution?

Particle pollution is microscopic solid and liquid droplets suspended in air.



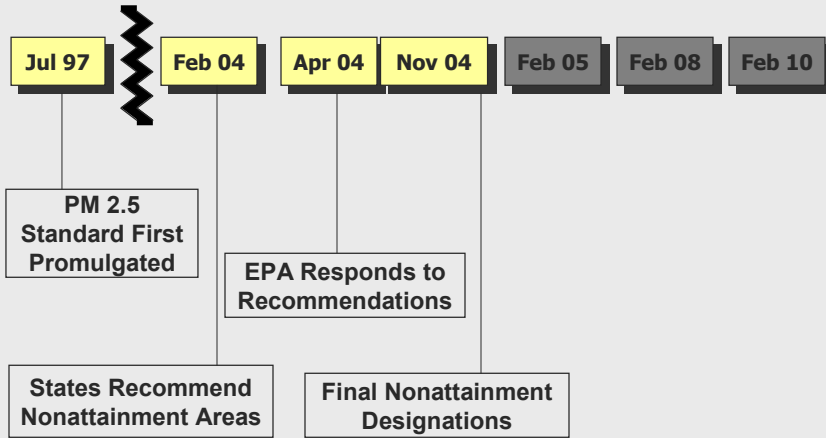
- Fine particles (PM 2.5) are less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter.



- Fine particles become stuck deep in the lungs or enter the bloodstream, causing severe health problems for asthmatics and people with lung or heart disease.

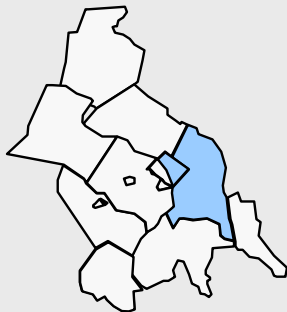
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Designation Process Not Yet Complete



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States Recommend 2 Jurisdictions

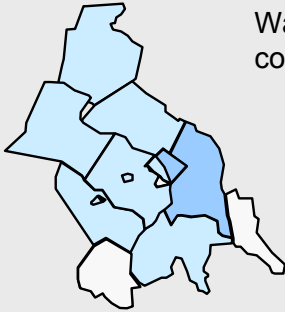


States recommended that only counties showing PM 2.5 nonattainment be designated:

- District of Columbia
- Prince George's

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EPA Recommends Additional Areas

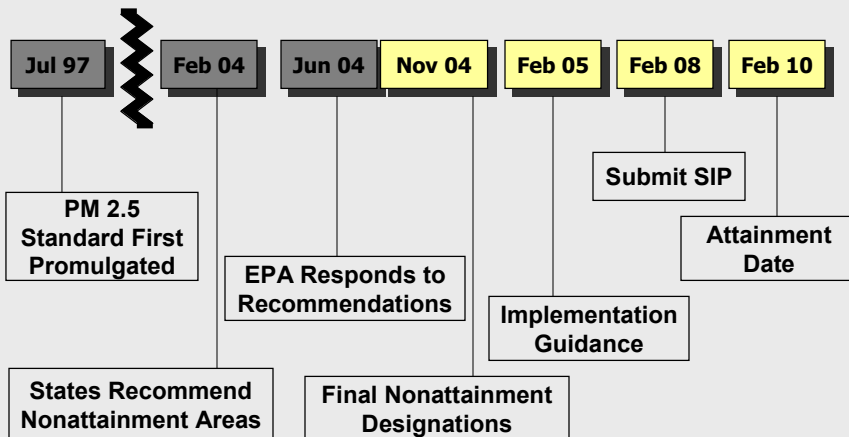


EPA evaluated all counties in the Washington MSA to determine whether they contribute to nonattainment in the region

- Emission sources
- Population density/urbanization
- Traffic and commuting patterns
- Expected growth

EPA intends to recommend that the entire 8-hour nonattainment area be designated, excluding Calvert County.

PM 2.5 Planning Horizon



Conformity Requirements Under the PM 2.5 Standard

- Conformity determination for PM 2.5 will be required by February 2006, one year after effective date of non-attainment designation
- PM 2.5 emissions budgets in new State Implementation Plan (SIP) by 2008
- Choice on how PM 2.5 conformity test should be made in the interim
 - Use the test that the build emissions are no greater than the no build emissions
 - Use the test that the build emissions are no greater than the 2002 emissions
 - Consultation process determines choice