

Criteria That Must Be Met in Order to be Redesignated to Attainment

Section 107(d)(3)(E) of the Clean Air Act, as amended, states that an area can be redesignated to attainment if the following conditions are met :

1. The EPA has determined that the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) have been attained. This is accomplished by State showing that the ambient air quality data indicates that the region is in compliance with the standard and that the monitoring network integrity has been maintained.
2. The applicable implementation plan has been fully approved by EPA under section 110(k). Section 110(k) contains the requirements for EPA action on plan submissions. It addresses completeness, deadlines, full and partial approval, conditional approval, and disapproval. Approval action on SIP elements and the redesignation request may occur simultaneously. An area cannot be redesignated if a required element of the plan is the subject of a disapproval; a finding of failure to submit or to implement the SIP; or partial, conditional, or limited approval.
3. The EPA has determined that the improvement in air quality is due to permanent and enforceable reductions in emissions.
4. The State has met all applicable requirements for the area under section 110 and Part D. Section 110 and Part D outline the requirements for area classification and State Implementation Plan contents and deadlines. For example, the SIP must be submitted 3 years after designation to nonattainment and must include an inventory, control measures, a RACM analysis, an attainment demonstration, and a contingency plan.
5. The EPA has fully approved a maintenance plan, including a contingency plan, for the area under section 175A. This section states that each State which submits a request for redesignation of a nonattainment area for any air pollutant as an area which has attained the national primary ambient air quality standard for that air pollutant shall also submit a revision of the applicable State implementation plan to provide for the maintenance of the national primary ambient air quality standard for such air pollutant in the area concerned for at least 10 years after the redesignation. The plan shall contain such additional measures, if any, as may be necessary to ensure such maintenance.

Sources:

Calcagni 1992. *Procedures for Processing Requests to Redesignate Areas to Attainment*, John Calcagni, U.S. EPA. September 4, 1992.

Clean Air Act: <http://www.epa.gov/air/caa/>