

EPA's Ozone Designation Process & Boundary Determination

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EPA Designation Process: 2008 Ozone Standard

- After working with the states and tribes and considering the information from air quality monitors, EPA "designates" an area as attainment or nonattainment with national ambient air quality standards. If an area is designated as nonattainment states must develop and implement control plans to reduce ozone-forming pollution.

Washington, DC-MD-VA

Ozone Designations

- 1992: Serious nonattainment for ozone (1 hr)
- 1997: “Serious” nonattainment for ozone (85 ppb)
- 2004: “Severe” nonattainment for ozone (1 hr)
- 2008: 75 ppb standard: Designation process interrupted, only state recommendations made in 2009
- 2011: Designation resumed, State update recommendations using 2008-2010 data
- 2011: EPA responds, 5 factor analysis

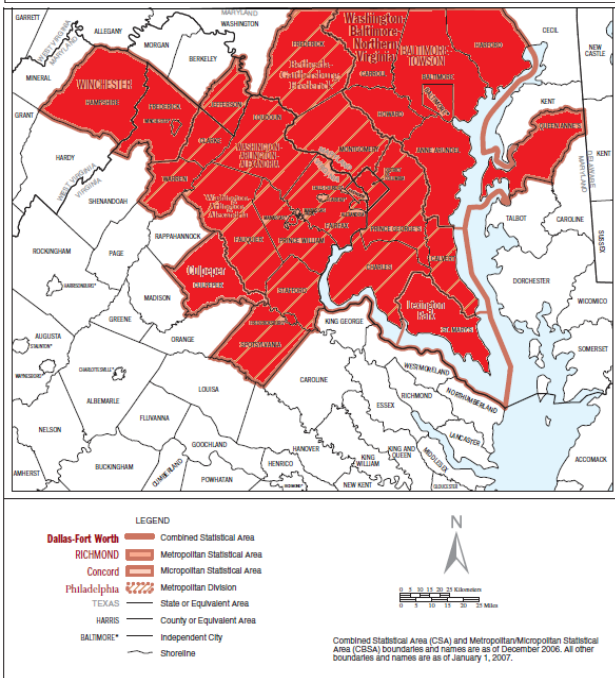
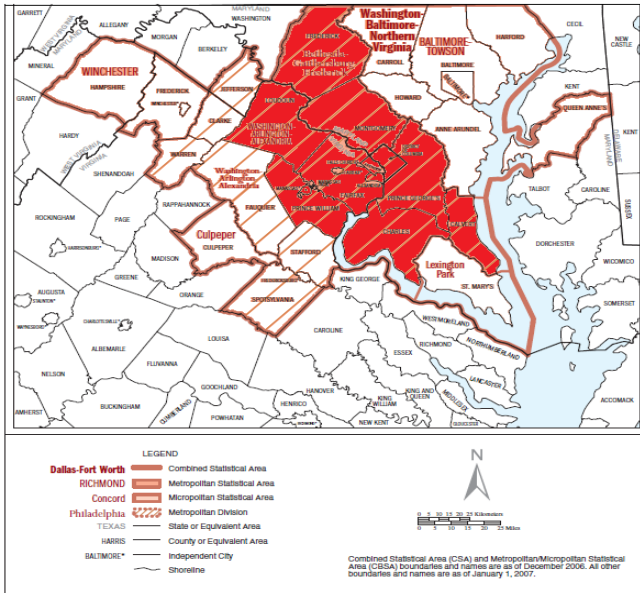
Nonattainment area designation process

- Initial recommendation from states (March 2009)
- Updated recommendation from states (Dec 2011)
- EPA's preliminary recommendation (Dec 2011)
- State response to EPA's recommendation in 120 days (March 2012)
- EPA finalizes area designation (due likely May 2012)

STATE RECOMMENDATIONS, 2011

Metropolitan Washington DC-MD-VA

VA DEQ Recommendation: 1997 Boundaries



Washington-Baltimore Consolidated Statistical Area (CSA)

MDE Recommendation: Combine Washington and Baltimore into one nonattainment area

DDOE Recommendation: Combine Washington and Baltimore into one nonattainment area

EPA's 5 Factor Analysis

1. Air Quality Data (violating monitors)
2. Emissions (location of sources, controls, urban growth patterns)
3. Meteorology (weather, transport)
4. Geography and topography
5. Jurisdictional boundaries

EPA Preliminary Conclusions

- “Past practice dictates against splitting the relevant portions of the current Washington DC-MD-VA nonattainment area along state lines”
- EPA’s preliminary conclusion in Dec. 2011 was to keep the Washington DC-MD-VA and Baltimore nonattainment areas separate

Pros & Cons

- Washington DC-MD-VA NAA and Baltimore NAA consistent with MPO organization; two distinct transportation conformity processes
- Preserves unique multi-state air quality planning process (MWAQC)
- May not fully address DC area contribution to Baltimore region
- MDE's tool for dealing with upwind areas is the significant contribution provisions in the CAA (Sections 110 & 126)

Next Steps

- EPA is consulting with the States and the District
- EPA will announce final designation on May 30-June 1