

EPA PROPOSAL - NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARD FOR OZONE

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EPA Proposal

- August 14, 2020 - EPA proposed to retain the current primary and secondary 8-hour ozone standards published in 2015 (70 parts per billion, ppb)

Primary standard: Public health; Sec. standard: Public welfare (Plants & trees)



Reasons for Retaining Standards

- Information contained in the Integrated Science Assessment, quantitative exposure/risk analyses and policy evaluations presented in the Policy Analysis, advice from the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee (CASAC) and public input.
- The general approach and methodology for the exposure-based assessment used in this review is similar to that used in the last review with updates made to the air quality data, models, model inputs, and underlying databases.
- Newly available information used in this proposal includes evidence of metabolic effects from short-term exposure to ozone. The proposal concludes that the existing standard also provides protection from metabolic effects.



CASAC's Opinion

- With regard to the primary standard, all seven CASAC members agreed that the currently available evidence was generally similar to that available in the last review when the standard was set. Based on this conclusion, six members of CASAC concluded that the primary standard should be retained. One member of CASAC expressed support for a lower standard expressing concerns about the safety margin provided by the current standard.
- With regard to the secondary standard, all seven members of CASAC agreed that the current evidence supported retaining the current standard without revision.

Ozone NAAQS Review Process

- Previously CASAC received expertise from the CASAC Ozone Review Panel, composed of CASAC members, outside public health researchers, and experts on air quality welfare impacts (agriculture, forest, and vegetation), in setting the NAAQS.
- The current ozone NAAQS review process did not include such an expert panel.

Comments on Proposal

- EPA solicits comment on the proposed decision to retain current standards, without revision.
- EPA also solicits comment on various issues associated with the review of current standards, including public health and welfare and science policy judgments inherent in the proposal.



Comments on Proposal

- Last date for comments : October 1, 2020
- 2 Virtual public hearings planned – August 31, 2020 & September 1, 2020
- Comments can be submitted in following ways:

Online: Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments to Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0279.

Email: Comments may be sent to a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov. Include Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0279 in the subject line of the message.