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# EPA Proposal to Revise the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)

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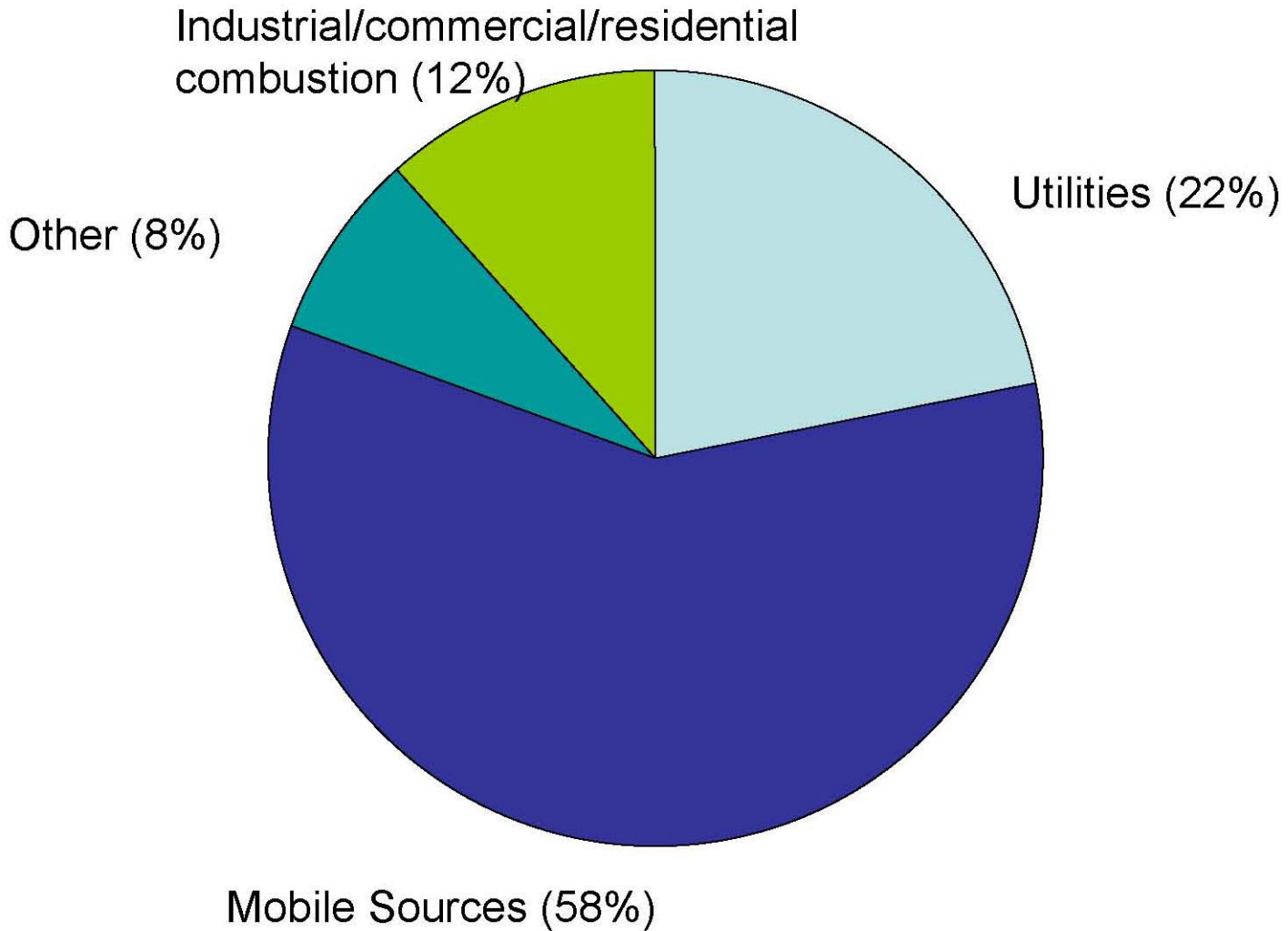
MWAQC

September 23, 2009

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# Proposal:

- Existing NO<sub>2</sub> Standard is an annual average of 53 ppb
  - Proposed:
    - Keep annual average of 53 ppb
    - Add a 1-hour NO<sub>2</sub> standard between 80-100 ppb
    - Create road-side monitoring network near major roads in urban areas
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# Comment Period

- Proposed on July 15, 2009
  - Comment Period ended: Sept. 15, 2009
  - EPA will accept MWAQC comment on Sept. 23, 2009
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# Why an hourly standard?

- Scientific studies link short-term NO<sub>2</sub> exposure (30 minutes to 24 hours) with adverse respiratory effects:
    - Increased asthma symptoms, worsened control of asthma, increase in respiratory illnesses and symptoms
    - Studies show a connection between short-term exposure and increased visits to emergency rooms (children, the elderly, asthmatics)
  - Hourly standard will protect at-risk populations
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# Near Road Monitoring Network

- NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in vehicles and on or near major roads are higher than those measured at area-wide monitors
  - Near-roadway concentrations are 30-100% higher than away from major roads
  - Individuals spending time on or near major roads can experience short-term NO<sub>2</sub> exposures higher than measured area-wide
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# Proposed Implementation Schedule

Milestone	Date
State Designation Recommendation	January 2011
EPA Designations	January 2012
New NO <sub>2</sub> Monitoring Network	January 1, 2013
Next NO <sub>2</sub> Review	January 2015
NAA Redesignation	January 2017-18
Attainment Date	January 2022/2023