



US Environmental Protection Agency  
Air and Radiation  
Office of Transportation and Air Quality

February 7, 1997

FACT SHEET

DIRECT FINAL RULE / NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING TO  
INCLUDE THE PHOENIX ARIZONA OZONE NONATTAINMENT AREA IN  
THE FEDERAL REFORMULATED GASOLINE PROGRAM

TODAY'S ACTION

EPA is issuing a direct final rulemaking today to revise the reformulated gasoline (RFG) regulations to include the Phoenix, Arizona ozone nonattainment area in the federal RFG Program. Today's action requires that retail stations sell federal RFG in the Phoenix area within 30 days of the effective date of the final rule.

BACKGROUND

Section 211(k) of the Clean Air Act (Act) requires EPA to establish standards for RFG to be used in specified ozone nonattainment areas. The Act also provides that ozone nonattainment areas classified as marginal, moderate, serious or severe, may be included in the RFG program upon application of the Governor of the state in which the area is located. [Section 211(k)(6) (the "opt-in" provision)]. EPA is required to establish an implementation date for the area to be included in the program within a year of the governor's request.

Phoenix, Arizona is currently classified as a moderate ozone nonattainment area. The Phoenix area continues to exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone and faces the possibility of being "bumped up" to a serious classification. In order to address these concerns and identify the best possible options for addressing the area's air quality problems, the State convened a task force which included the State Department of Environmental Quality as well as both industry and environmental representatives. The Task Force identified several options and ultimately decided to support the use of Federal RFG Phase I gasoline.

On January 17, 1997, EPA received a letter from Governor Symington of Arizona officially requesting that the Phoenix area be included in the federal reformulated gasoline program.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS?

RFG protects health and the environment by reducing harmful

vehicle emissions of ozone (smog)-forming compounds and air toxics. Today's action will expand the federal program to include the Phoenix ozone nonattainment area and thereby provide these benefits to the citizens of Phoenix. These benefits are all an important part of the area's air quality plan and provide needed additional emission reduction benefits to help the area reach attainment of the ozone NAAQS.

#### WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE REGULATION?

This action will provide important cost effective health and environmental benefits to the citizens of Phoenix by significantly reducing the levels of harmful ozone causing pollutants and toxic air emissions.

#### HOW WILL THE REGULATION AFFECT INDUSTRY?

Refiners, importers and oxygenate blenders who produce or import gasoline for use in the Phoenix ozone nonattainment area as a result of this action will be subject to the RFG requirements. The RFG regulations impose requirements such as sampling and testing, registration, record keeping, reporting, product transfer documentation, and compliance surveys.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Individuals who have access to a computer and a modem can download the rule from the Technology Transfer Network Bulletin Board (TTN BBS) by calling (919) 541-5742. For further information about how to access the bulletin board call (919) 541-5384.

The rule may also be accessed through the Internet in the Office of Mobile Sources (OMS) home page at <http://www.epa.gov/OMSWWW/>. For further information about the rule, call Janice Raburn at (202) 233-9000.