

**FACT SHEET**  
**MODIFICATION TO EFFECTIVE DATE OF AIR QUALITY DESIGNATION FOR**  
**THE 8-HOUR OZONE NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS FOR**  
**CHATTANOOGA, TN-GA**

**ACTION**

- Today the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is changing the effective date of designation for the 8-hour ozone standard for three counties in the Chattanooga area.
- This action defers the effective date of nonattainment designation for Hamilton and Meigs Counties, TN, and Catoosa County, GA. These counties are participating in an Early Action Compact.
- Thirty-three communities have signed innovative agreements with EPA, called *Early Action Compacts* (EAC), to reduce ground-level ozone pollution sooner than the Clean Air Act requires.
- Three of the five counties participating in the Chattanooga EAC (Hamilton and Meigs Counties, TN, and Catoosa County, GA) were designated nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone standard on April 15, 2004, which will be effective June 15, 2004.
- Chattanooga's early action plan did not meet the March 31, 2004 milestone because EPA determined that the modeled demonstration of attainment using weight of evidence was not acceptable and did not follow EPA's 8-hour modeling guidance. Consequently, the area did not qualify for a deferred effective date of the nonattainment designation to September 30, 2005.
- Chattanooga has requested that EPA reconsider its decision on granting the deferral for Hamilton and Meigs Counties, TN and Catoosa County, GA, and has submitted a revised early action plan that includes additional local emissions reduction measures and a revised technical analysis showing attainment in 2007.
- EPA reviewed the Chattanooga EAC early action plan and has determined that it will bring the area into attainment with the national air quality standard for 8-hour ozone by the 2007 deadline.

**BACKGROUND**

**Control Strategy**

- The local plan, which was submitted March 31, 2004, included: Stage 1 vapor recovery; open burning restrictions on ozone action days; ozone action day program (voluntary); accelerated schedule for adding lower emitting vehicles (voluntary). In addition, Tennessee is considering retrofits of existing vehicles & various outreach programs; and

Georgia is pursuing truck stop electrification and engine retrofits on school buses.

- Additional measures in the revised submittal include an vehicle inspections and maintenance (I/M) program and a ban on open burning during the ozone season.
- A vehicle I/M program will be implemented throughout all of Hamilton County, which is expected to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions by 1-2 tons per day and volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions by 2-3 tons per day. The program will consist of On-Board Diagnostics-II testing for model year 1996-and-newer and basic I/M for pre-1996 vehicles. The program is expected to be in place during the 2005 ozone season.
- The open burning ban will be implemented in Hamilton County and the City of Chattanooga, and will apply from May 1 to September 30, beginning the 2005 ozone season. No change in emissions reductions from March 2004 submittal is expected because reductions are already based on the ban occurring on a “typical summer day.”
- The authority for the local agency to implement the I/M program was approved by the Tennessee legislature on May 20, 2004 and signed into law by the Governor on June 8, 2004.

#### **Attainment Demonstration**

- Additional modeling for Chattanooga predicts that the area will attain the 8-hour ozone standard by December 2007 at a level of 81 parts per billion (85 parts per billion is considered a violation).
- The revised demonstration relies on an analysis of Georgia’s modeling, which does not depend on additional factors to supplement their analysis, such as meteorological influences and additional measures not modeled, as the previous analysis did.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- To download a copy of this notice, go to EPA’s World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/> under newly proposed or issued rules.
- General information on *Early Action Compacts* is available at <http://www.epa.gov/airlinks/> (click on the "Ozone and Particulate Standards" tab); and area-specific information on these compacts is available at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/ozone/eac/> .
- For further information on today’s notice, contact Dick Schutt, Regulatory Development Section, Air Planning Branch, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, EPA Region 4 at (404) 562-9033 or [schutt.dick@epa.gov](mailto:schutt.dick@epa.gov); or David Cole of EPA’s Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5565 or [cole.david@epa.gov](mailto:cole.david@epa.gov) .