

December 4, 1996

**FACT SHEET**

**ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING: IMPLEMENTATION  
OF NEW OR REVISED OZONE AND PARTICULATE MATTER AIR QUALITY  
STANDARDS AND REGIONAL HAZE PROGRAM**

Today's Action...

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today issuing an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) identifying key issues for consideration in the development of new or revised policies to implement revised national ambient air quality standards for ground-level ozone and particulate matter (PM), as well as a regional haze program.
- ◆ On November 27, 1996, EPA proposed to revise the national ambient air quality standards for ozone and PM. EPA is under a court order to issue a final decision on whether to retain or revise the PM standards by June 28, 1997. The Agency intends to follow the same schedule for issuing the final ozone standard, and also intends to propose a regional haze program in mid 1997.
- ◆ Under the Clean Air Act, once EPA revises an ambient air quality standard, the Agency must establish deadlines for attaining the standard and also set forth the actions that cities and states must take to meet the new standards by those deadlines. In the case of ozone, PM and regional haze, EPA will develop a two-phased implementation strategy. Phase I of the strategy will focus mainly on matters related to designation of areas with regard to their attainment status for new or revised standards. Phase II will address remaining implementation plan requirements. EPA anticipates proposing Phase I for public comment in June 1997 and taking final action on Phase I in June 1998. Phase II is scheduled to be proposed in June 1998 and finalized in June 1999.
- ◆ EPA is issuing this advance notice of proposed rulemaking because it believes that waiting until possible standard revisions are actually promulgated would cause inevitable delays and disruptions in national, state and local efforts to achieve clean, healthy air. This is

especially true for those efforts already underway to attain the ambient air quality standard for ozone.

- ◆ Ozone, PM and regional haze are products of interrelated chemical conversions in the atmosphere and new approaches are needed to integrate the management and planning for addressing these air quality problems. This ANPRM provides a broad scientific perspective on this issue and addresses other implementation issues that have been identified such as the need for regional strategies.
- ◆ EPA believes that providing advance notice of the issues, principles, and questions under consideration provides more time for public participation and input into the development of these programs. The ANPRM is not intended to indicate predisposed preferences or decisions by EPA.

How is EPA Using the Federal Advisory Committee Act Process to Address Ozone, Particulate Matter, and Regional Haze Implementation?

- ◆ If EPA makes a final decision to revise either or both of the national ambient air quality standards for PM or ozone, the Agency intends to develop common-sense implementation strategies that achieve the new public health goals in a cost-effective manner. To that end, EPA has brought together experts from industry, State and local governments, environmental groups, and academia to advise the Agency on this implementation strategy. Their advice and recommendations will be the basis for EPA's implementation program. EPA created this advisory committee under the auspices of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).
- ◆ Besides reviewing the national ambient air quality standards for ozone and PM, EPA is also developing a regional haze program to address visibility impairment in Federal Class I areas (certain national parks and wilderness areas). With the possibility that EPA may revise either or both the ozone and PM standards, as well as to develop a new regional haze program, EPA felt it was important to obtain advice and recommendations for implementing these programs from a wide range of perspectives. As a result, EPA used FACA to establish the Subcommittee for Ozone, Particulate Matter and Regional Haze Implementation Programs formed under the

Clean Air Act Advisory Committee in September 1995. These programs are being examined together because of the likelihood that implementation programs for ozone, PM, and regional haze could focus on the same or similar sources.

- ◆ The Subcommittee is composed of about 60 members representing State and local agencies, tribes, business and industry, environmental groups, other Federal agencies, and scientific/academic institutions.
- ◆ In addition, there are a large number of other representatives of industry, environmental groups, State and local agencies, and others on 4 Subcommittee working groups: Science and Technical Support Group, Base Programs Analyses and Policies Group, National and Regional Strategies Group, and the Communication and Outreach Group. A Coordination Group is responsible for assuring that the work of the other groups supports overall project goals. Total membership of the Subcommittee and its 5 working groups is over 150 participants. The working groups are co-chaired by stakeholder representatives and an EPA official.
- ◆ Numerous meetings of the Subcommittee have been held since September 1995. The work groups hold biweekly conference calls and meet face-to-face as needed, normally in conjunction with Subcommittee meetings.
- ◆ The Subcommittee will remain at the center of EPA's efforts to implement any new or revised ozone and PM standards and the regional haze program. EPA intends to continue to adjust the focus and membership of the Subcommittee as necessary to address relevant implementation concerns. For example, EPA has taken steps to assure that the concerns of small businesses are adequately considered by augmenting Subcommittee membership in this area. EPA is also exploring the use of regional public meetings to obtain additional input on implementation issues from States, local government agencies, the general public, and environmental groups. In addition, the Subcommittee will be asked to provide advice and recommendations on strategies that will spur the development of new clean air technologies.

For More Information...

- ◆ Contact Bill Hamilton at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5498 for additional information. Information about the FACA process can also be found on the Internet at:  
[HTTP://TTNWWW.RTPNC.EPA.GOV/HTML/OZPMRH/FACAHOME.HTM](http://TTNWWW.RTPNC.EPA.GOV/HTML/OZPMRH/FACAHOME.HTM)