

Connecticut; Redesignation to Attainment for the Hartford - New Britain - Middletown Area and Maintenance Plan.

Federal Register Dates:

October 31, 1995	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 60 FR 55354
October 31, 1995	Direct Final Rulemaking, 60 FR 55316
May 14, 1996	Final Rule 61 FR 24239
November 15, 1996	Correction Amendment 61 FR 58487

EPA Approval Date: The final rule approving the redesignation of the Hartford - New Britain - Middletown area from nonattainment to attainment for carbon monoxide (CO), was effective on January 2, 1996.

State Submittal: On September 30, 1994, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP), submitted a request to redesignate the Hartford - New Britain - Middletown area from nonattainment to attainment for carbon monoxide (CO).

Background/Prior Action: On March 31, 1978, (See 43 FR 8962), EPA published rulemaking which set forth attainment status for all States in relation to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The area of Hartford - New Britain - Middletown (the "Hartford area") was designated as nonattainment for Carbon Monoxide through this rulemaking notice. In a letter dated March 14, 1991 from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to EPA Administrator, the State recommended that the area be classified as Category 3 nonattainment. Because the area had a design value of 9.7 ppm, the area was considered "moderate" nonattainment under the provisions outlined in sections 186 and 187 of the CAA. (See 56 FR 56694 (Nov. 6, 1991) and 57 FR 56762 (Nov. 30, 1992), codified at 40 CFR part 81, Sec. 81.307.). The CAA established an attainment date of December 31, 1995, for all moderate CO areas. The Hartford area has ambient monitoring data showing attainment of the CO NAAQS, since 1988. Therefore, in an effort to comply with the CAA and to ensure continued attainment of the NAAQS, on September 30, 1994 the State of Connecticut submitted a CO redesignation request and a maintenance plan for the Hartford area. Connecticut submitted evidence that a public hearing was held on August 17, 1994.

The Connecticut redesignation request for the Hartford/New Britain/ Middletown area meets the five specific requirements of Section 107(d)(3)(E) of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments that an area must meet in order to be redesignated from nonattainment to attainment: (1) Attainment of the CO NAAQS; (2) Connecticut's CO SIP is fully approved by EPA as meeting all the requirements of Section 110 of the Act, including the requirement in Section 110(a)(2)(I) to meet all the applicable requirements of Part D (relating to nonattainment), which were due prior to the date of Connecticut's redesignation request; (3) Improvement in air quality due to permanent and enforceable measures; and (4) Fully approved maintenance plan which demonstrates continued attainment. To provide for the possibility of future NAAQS violations, the maintenance plan contains contingency measures, with a schedule for implementation adequate to assure prompt correction of any air quality problems.

Summary: EPA approved the State of Connecticut's request to redesignate the Hartford - New Britain - Middletown area. EPA approved the State of Connecticut's maintenance plan for the Hartford/New Britain/Middletown area. The EPA is granting approval of the Connecticut 1990 base year CO emissions inventory submitted on January 13, 1994. Finally, EPA is approving Connecticut's oxygenated fuels program, Connecticut's Regulation 22a-174-28.

Contingency Measures: Connecticut has developed a two stage contingency plan. The first stage is the implementation of an enhanced vehicle inspection and maintenance program. The second stage is the implementation of an oxygenated fuels program throughout the Hartford CMSA.

Transportation Conformity Budgets: For transportation conformity purposes, the attainment year on-road carbon monoxide emissions of 493 tons per day was designated as the motor vehicle emissions budget for the Hartford - New Britain - Middletown carbon monoxide attainment/maintenance area. All new and revised Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs that require a conformity determination must conform to the 493 tons of carbon monoxide per winter day motor vehicle emission budget for any analysis year 2005 (last year of the first ten year maintenance plan) or later.

Identification by rule name and/or number/citation of the regulations that have been approved by EPA as part of the SIP Plan:

Connecticut's oxygenated fuels program, Connecticut's Regulation 22a-174-28. And simultaneously approving the oxygenated fuels program use as a contingency measure for the Hartford area. The Oxygenated Fuel Program covers the Connecticut portion of the New Jersey-New York-Connecticut Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) and the Hartford CMSA. However, the State has shown that oxygenated gasoline in the Hartford CMSA is not necessary for continued maintenance of the CO NAAQS.

Other Commitments:

- Eight years after the redesignation, the state must submit a revised maintenance plan which demonstrates attainment for the ten years following the initial ten-year period.
- Connecticut has committed to continue monitoring in this area in accordance with 40 CFR part 58.
- Connecticut's Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) requirements will be applicable to new or modified sources in the Hartford area.

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