

Connecticut; Redesignation to Attainment for the New York - Northern New Jersey - Long Island Area and Maintenance Plan.

Federal Register Dates:

November 2, 1998	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 63 FR 58678
November 2, 1998	Direct Final Rulemaking, 63 FR 58637
March 10, 1999	Final Rule (removal) 64 FR 12002
March 10, 1999	Proposed Rulemaking (re-proposal) 64 FR 12025
March 10, 1999	Direct Final Rulemaking 64 FR 12005

EPA Approval Date: The final rule approving the redesignation of the New York - Northern New Jersey - Long Island area from nonattainment to attainment for carbon monoxide (CO), was effective on March 10, 1999.

State Submittal: On January 12, 1993, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection submitted a revision to the carbon monoxide State Implementation Plan for the 1990 base year emission inventory. The inventory was submitted by the State of Connecticut to satisfy Federal requirements under sections 172(c)(3) and 187(a)(1) of the Clean Air Act as amended in 1990, as a revision to the carbon monoxide State Implementation Plan for the Hartford - New Britain - Middletown carbon monoxide nonattainment area, the New Haven - Meriden - Waterbury carbon monoxide nonattainment area, and the Connecticut Portion of the New York-Northern New Jersey - Long Island carbon monoxide nonattainment area.

The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CO area in Connecticut consist of all cities and townships in Fairfield County except Shelton City; and the Towns of Bridgewater and New Milford in Litchfield County.

Background/Prior Action: On March 31, 1978, EPA published a rulemaking which set forth the attainment status for all States in relation to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The Connecticut portion of the New York - Northern New Jersey - Long Island area was designated as nonattainment for carbon monoxide (CO) through this notice. This includes the municipalities in southwest Connecticut of Bethel, Bridgeport, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Darien, Easton, Fairfield, Greenwich, Monroe, New Canaan, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Norwalk, Redding, Ridgefield, Sherman, Stamford, Stratford, Trumbull, Weston, Westport, and Wilton.

On November 2, 1998, EPA published a direct final rule that approved the maintenance plan, carbon monoxide redesignation plan, and emissions inventory for the Connecticut portion of the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island Area.

On March 10, 1999 in a final rulemaking action EPA re-proposed approval and responded to adverse comment received on the November 2, 1998 proposal/direct final. In the November 2, 1998 document, EPA inaccurately stated that Connecticut has a fully approved CO SIP. On December 2, 1998, EPA received a comment pointing out that EPA has not fully

approved Connecticut's enhanced I/M program and inquiring as to the basis for EPA's redesignation in light of the absence of a fully approved enhanced I/M program. (A fully approved CO nonattainment SIP for this area must include a fully approved enhanced I/M program.) EPA has concluded that relying on a conditional approval of Connecticut's enhanced vehicle inspection and maintenance program for the purposes of redesignating the southwest portion of the State to attainment for CO is a de minimis departure from redesignation requirements.

Summary: EPA is approving the Connecticut portion of the New York - Northern New Jersey - Long Island (southwest Connecticut) area carbon monoxide redesignation because the State has addressed compliance with the requirements of section 107(d)(3)(E) for redesignation and EPA is approving the maintenance plan because it addresses the requirements set forth in section 175A of the CAA. The New York and New Jersey portions of the carbon monoxide nonattainment area will remain designated nonattainment until such time that redesignation requests are submitted and approved by EPA for those states.

Contingency Measures: If the area records an exceedance of the carbon monoxide NAAQS (which must be confirmed by the State), Connecticut will implement one or more appropriate contingency measure(s) which are contained in the contingency plan. The menu of contingency measure includes investigating local traffic conditions, the enhanced motor vehicle inspection and maintenance program, and the low emissions vehicles program (LEV).

Transportation Conformity Budgets: The redesignation request establishes a year 2010 motor vehicle emissions budget of 205 tons per day for carbon monoxide to be used in determining transportation conformity in the Connecticut Portion of the New York – Northern New Jersey – Long Island area.

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

On October 7, 1999, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection submitted a revision to the carbon monoxide State Implementation Plan that removes the oxygenated fuel requirement for the Connecticut portion of the New York - Northern New Jersey - Long Island area and converts the program to a contingency measure. If a violation of the carbon monoxide ambient air quality standard were to occur, the State would be required to reimplement the program.

Conditional approval of Connecticut State Regulation 14-164c, the statewide vehicle enhanced inspection and maintenance (I/M) program. The regulations call for implementation of a biennial ASM2525 test-only enhanced I/M program, utilizing new emission analyzers and dynamometers connected to a central computer with final cut points being implemented in 2001. The State has committed to correct I/M program deficiencies within 1 year of EPA's conditional approval.

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 to monitor carbon monoxide in the cities of Stamford and Bridgeport.
- Connecticut's Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) requirements will be applicable to new or modified sources in Southwest Connecticut area.

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