

Connecticut; Redesignation to Attainment for the New Haven-Meriden-Waterbury Area and Maintenance Plan.

Federal Register Dates:

October 5, 1998 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 63 FR 53350
October 5, 1998 Direct Final Rulemaking, 63 FR 53282

EPA Approval Date: The final rule approving the redesignation of the New Haven-Meriden-Waterbury area from nonattainment to attainment for carbon monoxide (CO), was effective on December 4, 1998.

State Submittal: On January 17, 1997, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP), submitted a request to redesignate the New Haven-Meriden-Waterbury area from nonattainment to attainment for carbon monoxide (CO).

Background/Prior Action: Prior to the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments, a large area encompassing New Haven, Hartford, and Springfield, MA, was a single air quality control region. Pursuant to the Clean Air Act of 1990, the area was divided into specific nonattainment areas, one of which is the New Haven-Meriden-Waterbury CO nonattainment area. The New Haven-Meriden-Waterbury area and surrounding towns (the "New Haven area") was designated as nonattainment for carbon monoxide (CO) through an EPA rulemaking March 31, 1978, (See 43 FR 8962). This includes the towns of New Haven, Thomaston, Watertown, Bethlehem, Woodbury, Wolcott, Waterbury, Middlebury, Southbury, Meriden, Cheshire, Prospect, Naugatuck, Oxford, Seymour, Shelton, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Hamden, Wallingford, Guilford, Branford, North Branford, Madison, North Haven, East Haven, Woodbridge, West Haven, Ansonia, Derby, Orange, and Milford. The New Haven area was designated "unclassifiable" as determined by EPA even though the area has ambient monitoring data showing attainment of the CO NAAQS since 1978.

The Connecticut redesignation request for the New Haven-Meriden-Waterbury 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) The air quality improvement is permanent and enforceable; (4) Fully approved maintenance plan demonstrates continued attainment of the applicable NAAQS. 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: On January 17, 1997, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection submitted a request to redesignate the New Haven-Meriden-Waterbury carbon monoxide nonattainment area to attainment for carbon monoxide. As part of the redesignation request, the

State submitted a maintenance plan as required by 175A of the Clean Air Act, as amended in 1990. Elements of the section 175A maintenance plan include a base year emission inventory for carbon monoxide, a demonstration of maintenance of the carbon monoxide NAAQS with projected emission inventories to the year 2008 for carbon monoxide, a plan to verify continued attainment, a contingency plan, and an obligation to submit a subsequent maintenance plan revision in 8 years as required by the Clean Air Act. If the area records a violation 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 reformulated gasoline and the enhanced motor vehicle inspection and maintenance program. The redesignation request and maintenance plan meet the redesignation requirements in sections 107(d)(3)(E) and 175A of the Act as amended in 1990, respectively.

Contingency Measures: Connecticut has developed a two stage contingency plan. The first stage is the implementation of reformulated gasoline. The second is the implementation of the enhanced vehicle inspection and maintenance program

Transportation Conformity Budgets: The redesignation request establishes a year 2008 motor vehicle emissions budget of 229 tons per day for carbon monoxide to be used in determining transportation conformity for the New Haven - Meriden - Waterbury area.

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

No new state regulations were approved into the Connecticut State Implementation Plan in association with the redesignation of the New Haven-Meriden- Waterbury area to attainment.

Other Commitments:

- Eight years from October 5, 1998 the state is required to submit another 10 year maintenance plan covering the period from 2008 through 2018.
- Connecticut will submit periodic inventories of CO emissions.
- Connecticut has committed to continue to monitor CO in the City of New Haven.
- Connecticut's Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) requirements will be applicable to new or modified sources in the New Haven-Meriden-Waterbury area.

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