

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Serving the National Capital Region



- Transportation
- Environment
- Housing & Planning
- Health & Human Services
- Homeland Security & Public Safety
- Cooperative Purchasing
- Information & Publications
- Events Calendar
- Committee Business
- News Room

Environment

[Home](#) > [Environment](#) > [Air Quality](#) > [Overview & News](#)

Air Quality

EPA Acton on Region's Air Quality Plan

May 3, 2005 - EPA approved the Virginia and District of Columbia 's one-hour ozone air quality plan ("Severe Area SIP") to meet the Clean Air Act requirements for a severe ozone nonattainment area. EPA disapproved the Maryland plan with a protective finding for the mobile emissions budget, so the budget can be used for determining conformity for the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

EPA plans to revoke the one-hour standard on June 15, 2005. The Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) is developing a new air quality plan to meet the 8-hour ozone standard. The Metropolitan Washington region was designated as in moderate non-attainment of the 8-hour ozone standard and has a deadline of June 2010 to meet the new ozone standard.

- [Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Improvement Plans; District of Columbia and Virginia](#)
- [Disapproval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland](#)

Air Quality Action Day Conference Scheduled

May 12, 2005 - Mark your calendar now for the Clean Air Partners 7th Annual Air Quality Action Days Conference, May 12, 2005, at the Hilton Old Town Alexandria. This year's conference will provide an exciting opportunity for health care professionals, air quality experts, day care providers, teachers, and Air Quality Action Days



Overview of the COG Air Quality Program

The Council of Governments (COG) provides daily reports and [forecasts](#) of regional air quality. The Washington region is a [non-attainment area](#) for ground-level ozone and PM 2.5 according to federal health standards. As a participant in [Clean Air Partners](#), COG helps alert area employers when it declares [Air Quality Action Days](#). The ozone season generally runs between May and September.

Through COG, the [Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee \(MWAQC\)](#) and its subcommittees coordinate planning to reduce pollutant emissions. Visit the committee page for a [description](#), [schedule](#), upcoming meeting [documents](#), [past meeting documents](#), and [roster](#). The committee has developed a severe area ozone SIP to reduce pollution levels. Visit the [SIP page](#) for more details.

First Edition of Air Quality Newsletter Released

March 2005 - COG has published the first edition of [Air Currents](#), a periodical discussing issues that the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) is currently facing. It is designed to inform MWAQC members about air quality planning and progress in the months between regular MWAQC meetings.



Overview

Air Quality Fo

Air Quality D

Metropolitan Washington / Committee (M

Air Quality Pt Advisory Con (AQPAC)

Clean Air Par

Indoor Air Qu

Health

Links

Publications

Committees

Meetings and

Staff

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[RME NO. R03-OAR-2004-DC-0010; FRL-]

**Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland;
Metropolitan Washington D.C. 1-Hour Ozone Attainment Demonstration Plans**

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is disapproving a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the State of Maryland, and is issuing a protective finding for that plan pursuant to EPA's transportation conformity rule. The intended effect of this action is to disapprove Maryland's attainment plan for the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. severe 1-hour ozone nonattainment area (the Washington area) and to issue a protective finding which allows the motor vehicle emissions budgets identified in that plan to be used in future conformity determinations. This action allows transportation planning activities, including conformity analyses and determinations, to continue normally until such time as highway sanctions would be imposed pursuant to the Clean Air Act (the CAA or the Act) and EPA's order of sanctions rule.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This final rule is effective on [insert date 30 days from date of publication].

ADDRESSES: EPA has established a docket for this action under Regional Material in EDocket (RME) ID Number R03-OAR-2004-DC-0010. All documents in the docket are listed in the RME index at <http://www.docket.epa.gov/rmepub/>. Once in the system, select "quick search," then key in the appropriate RME identification number. Although listed in the

electronic docket, some information is not publicly available, i.e., confidential business information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the Internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically in RME or in hard copy for public inspection during normal business hours at the Air Protection Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103. Copies of the State submittal are available at the Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 705, Baltimore, Maryland 21230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Cripps, (215) 814-2179, or by e-mail at cripps.christopher@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

In this document any reference to “we” and “our” means EPA and EPA’s, respectively.

I. Background

A. Summary

On February 9, 2005, (70 FR 6796), EPA published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPR) for the State of Maryland. In our February 9, 2005, NPR, we proposed approval of an attainment plan SIP revision submitted by the State of Maryland for the Washington area contingent upon the State submitting an approvable SIP revision for certain penalty fees, required by the Act, prior to the time EPA issued a final rule on Maryland’s attainment plan. In the alternative, EPA proposed to disapprove the attainment plan SIP revision submitted by the State of Maryland for the Washington area and to issue a protective finding for the attainment plan which would allow

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[RME NO. R03-OAR-2004-DC-0009, R03-OAR-2004-DC-0010; FRL-]

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia; 1-Hour Ozone Attainment Plans, Rate-of-Progress Plans, Contingency Measures, Transportation Control Measures, VMT Offset, and 1990 Base Year Inventory

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is approving State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions submitted by the District of Columbia (the District), the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia. These revisions include the 1996-1999 and 1999-2005 rate-of-progress (ROP) plans, changes to the 1990 base year inventory, a contingency measures plan, certain transportation control measures (TCMs), and a demonstration that each SIP contains any necessary transportation control measures to offset any growth in emissions from growth in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and to demonstrate ROP and attainment of the 1-hour national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) for ozone. These revisions also include the District's and Virginia's attainment plan for the Washington, D.C. severe 1-hour ozone nonattainment area (the Washington area). The intended effect of this action with respect to the following SIP revisions, all of which were submitted to satisfy the SIP requirements of 1-hour ozone nonattainment areas classified as severe, is to: approve the District's, Maryland's and Virginia's modeling demonstration, which includes the analysis based upon photochemical grid modeling, that the Washington area will attain the 1-hour ozone NAAQS; approve the District's, Maryland's and Virginia's post-1996 ROP plans, 1990 base year inventory revisions, TCMs, VMT offset and contingency measures SIP revisions; approve the District's and Virginia's attainment plans for the Washington area; and,

determine that Maryland's SIP for the Washington area contains adopted control measures and determine that these measures fully satisfy the emission reductions relevant to attainment of the 1-hour ozone NAAQS.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This final rule is effective on [insert date 30 days from date of publication].

ADDRESSES: EPA has established a docket for this action under Regional Material in EDocket (RME) ID Number R03-OAR-2004-DC-0010. All documents in the docket are listed in the RME index at <http://www.docket.epa.gov/rmepub/>. Once in the system, select "quick search," then key in the appropriate RME identification number. Although listed in the electronic docket, some information is not publicly available, i.e., confidential business information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the Internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically in RME or in hard copy for public inspection during normal business hours at the Air Protection Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103. Copies of the State submittal are available at the District of Columbia Department of Public Health, Air Quality Division, 51 N Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20002; the Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 705, Baltimore, Maryland 21230; and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.