

# The New Air Quality Conformity Requirements for the Washington Region under the 8-Hour Ozone Rule and the Proposed Non-attainment Area Designations for Fine Particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)

Presentation to the  
TPB Technical Committee  
September 3, 2004

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## Background

- The region's 2003 CLRP and FY 2004-2009 TIP meet Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) air quality conformity requirements for the 1-hour ozone standard non-attainment area (approved February 23, 2004)
- For the 8-hour ozone standard, the non-attainment area excludes Stafford County; the base year is 2002; and the attainment year is 2010
- July 1, 2004, EPA published in the *Federal Register* conformity requirements under the 8-hour ozone standard
- June 29, 2004, EPA proposed new non-attainment area designations for PM<sub>2.5</sub> which will establish new conformity requirements for the region for PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard

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## Conformity Determination under the 1-hour and 8-Hour Ozone Standards

- Conformity determination for the draft 2004 CLRP and FY 2005-2010 TIP is underway under the current 1-hour standard – draft results due to TPB September 15, 2004
- For conformity under the 8-hour standard, need to analyze 2010 attainment year in addition to 1-hour milestone years (2005, 2015, 2025, 2030)
- Federal approval of conformity for the CLRP and TIP under the new 8-hour standard necessary by **June 15, 2005** or the region will be in a conformity lapse
- Need to move as expeditiously as possible to make a conformity determination under the 8-hour standard

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## Conformity Requirements Under the 8-hour Standard

- 8-hour mobile emissions budgets in new State Implementation Plan (SIP) by 2007
- Choice on how 8-hour conformity test should be made in the interim (in particular, by June 15, 2005)
  - Use revised 1-hour budgets for 8-hour area, removing Stafford County emissions from budgets and from updated CLRP/TIP emissions estimates (*Option 1*)
  - Use existing 1-hour budgets for 1-hour area, retaining Stafford County emissions in both the budgets and the updated CLRP/TIP emissions (*Option 2*)
  - Consultation process determines choice between options 1 and 2

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## Meeting the 8–Hour Conformity Requirements

- Option 2 (retaining Stafford County in both budgets and emissions estimates) is recommended:
  - Stafford County is second fastest growing county in region so Option 2 is the more stringent test
  - Less calendar time needed than for Option 1 (no need to develop revised budgets and emissions excluding Stafford County)
- Work is underway on the 2010 highway, HOV and transit networks for the 8-hour assessment

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## Why Regulate Particle Pollution?

*Particle pollution* is microscopic solid and liquid droplets suspended in air.



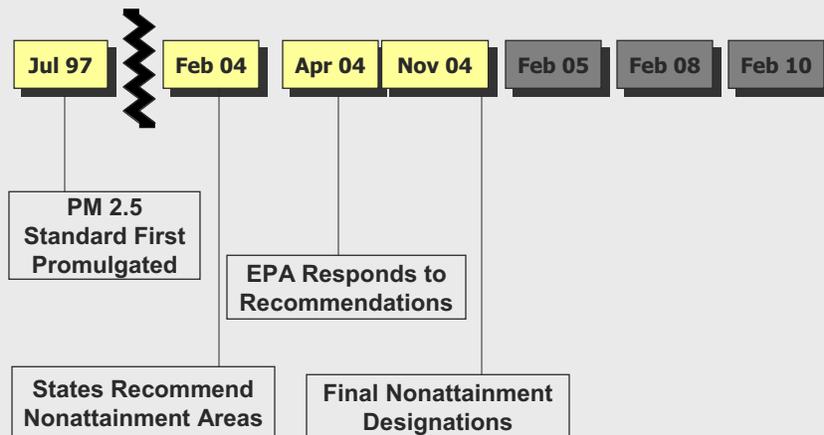
- Fine particles (PM 2.5) are less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter.



- Fine particles become stuck deep in the lungs or enter the bloodstream, causing severe health problems for asthmatics and people with lung or heart disease.

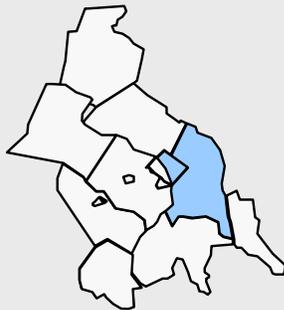
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## Designation Process Not Yet Complete



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## States Recommend 2 Jurisdictions

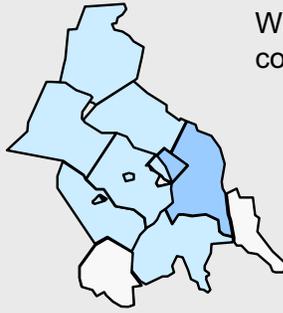


States recommended that only counties showing PM 2.5 nonattainment be designated:

- District of Columbia
- Prince George's

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## EPA Recommends Additional Areas

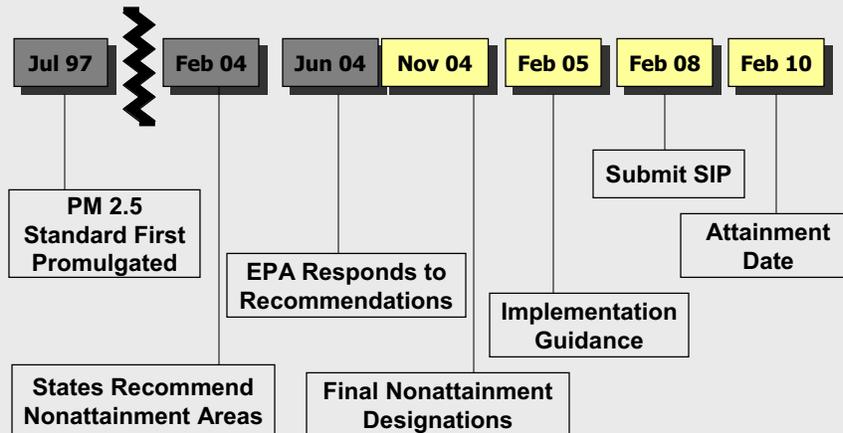


EPA evaluated all counties in the Washington MSA to determine whether they contribute to nonattainment in the region

- Emission sources
- Population density/urbanization
- Traffic and commuting patterns
- Expected growth

EPA intends to recommend that the entire 8-hour nonattainment area be designated, excluding Calvert County.

## PM 2.5 Planning Horizon



## **Conformity Requirements Under the PM 2.5 Standard**

- Conformity determination for PM 2.5 will be required by February 2006, one year after effective date of non-attainment designation
- PM 2.5 emissions budgets in new State Implementation Plan (SIP) by 2008
- Choice on how PM 2.5 conformity test should be made in the interim
  - build emissions no greater than the no build emissions
  - build emissions no greater than 2002 emissions
  - Consultation process determines choice