

DRAFT

Technical Committee
Item #2

**PLAN TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY IN THE
WASHINGTON, DC-MD-VA REGION**

**State Implementation Plan (SIP)
“Severe Area SIP”**

**Demonstrating Rate of Progress for 2002 and 2005;
Revision to 1990 Base Year Emissions; and
Severe Area Attainment Demonstration
for the
WASHINGTON DC-MD-VA
NONATTAINMENT AREA**

Prepared by:

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

for the

District of Columbia Department of Health

**Maryland Department of the Environment
and the**

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

on behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

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PLAN TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY IN THE WASHINGTON, DC-MD-VA REGION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State Implementation Plan (SIP) "Severe Area SIP"

Demonstrating Rate of Progress for 2002 and 2005; Revision to 1990 Base Year Emissions; and Severe Area Attainment Demonstration for the WASHINGTON DC-MD-VA NONATTAINMENT AREA

Prepared by:

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December 17, 2003

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA or Act) represent an unprecedented commitment to protecting public health and the environment. Title I of the Act classifies areas that exceed national health-based air quality standards based upon the severity of their pollution problem (marginal, moderate, serious, severe, and extreme) and, accordingly, prescribes increasingly stringent measures that must be implemented and sets new deadlines for achieving the standards. The Act also establishes specific emissions reduction requirements to ensure that continual progress toward attainment is made.

High levels of ozone are a health problem. When it is breathed into the lungs, ozone reacts with lung tissue. It can harm breathing passages, decrease the lungs' working ability and cause coughing and chest pains; eye and throat irritation; breathing difficulties even for healthy individuals, but especially for those with respiratory problems such as allergies, asthma, bronchitis and emphysema; and greater susceptibility to respiratory infection.

Not only does ozone pose a threat to human health, but also it poses a threat to the health of natural ecosystems. Scientific evidence suggests that air pollution weakens the immune systems of many types of vegetation and can cause significant crop damage. In addition, rain and snow wash air pollution deposited on vegetation and architectural surfaces into the streams and rivers of the region and finally into the Chesapeake Bay.

This document, the Severe Area Attainment Plan for the Metropolitan Washington Nonattainment Area, is a plan to improve air quality in the Washington region to meet the national air quality standard for ozone (one-hour ozone standard). The Plan consists of two Rate of Progress demonstrations, for the period 1999-2002 and for the 2002-2005; and an attainment demonstration for 2005.

Additionally, the plan includes commitments by the states to meet requirements for severe nonattainment areas, commitments by the states to meet additional EPA requirements for the Washington region including a contingency plan for 1999 rate of progress, contingency plans for the 2002 and 2005 rates of progress, and an analysis of Reasonably Available Control Measures. The plan presents revised emissions inventories for 1990, 2002 and 2005 based on the MOBILE6 mobile emissions model, the revised travel demand model Version 2, and includes technical corrections to the inventories.

The Severe Area Attainment Plan is intended to show the progress being made to improve air quality in the Washington nonattainment area and the efforts underway to assure that all necessary steps are taken to reach the federal health standard for ground-level ozone by 2005. The plan has been prepared by the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee to comply with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and with EPA requirements for the Washington region as stated in EPA's reclassification of the Washington region (January 2003) and in EPA's conditional approval of the Metropolitan Washington region's State Implementation Plan (April 2003).