

# RAQPAC Notes – EPA Update

4/28/2022 Meeting

## **Reconsideration of the Decision to Retain 2012 Particulate Matter (PM) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)**

On March 18, 2022, the Chartered Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) PM Panel transmitted two reports to the EPA Administrator. The two reports provide the CASAC PM Panel's advice on EPA's scientific and technical documents supporting the Agency's reconsideration of the PM NAAQS.

### Summary of CASAC PM Panel recommendations to the Administrator:

- Annual avg. PM<sub>2.5</sub>: Current level of 12.0 ug/m<sup>3</sup> is not protective; majority supported range of 8-10 ug/m<sup>3</sup>, minority supported 10-11 ug/m<sup>3</sup>
- 24-hour avg. PM<sub>2.5</sub>: Majority recommended current 35 ug/m<sup>3</sup> std. not protective, recommend level of 25-30 ug/m<sup>3</sup>; minority recommend current std. is protective
- 24-hour primary PM<sub>10</sub> and secondary PM<sub>10</sub> stds: Recommended retaining (agreed with EPA's conclusions in policy assessment)
- However, not very prescriptive on secondary std.; Administrator could consider revising secondary standard with respect to visibility

For more information, see CASAC Review of the EPA's *Supplement to the 2019 Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter (External Review Draft – October 2021)* [ISA Supplement report](#), and CASAC Review of the EPA's *Policy Assessment for the Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter (External Review Draft – October 2021)* [PA report](#)

On April 14, 2022, EPA announced the availability of the [“Supplement to the 2019 Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter \(Final\)”](#). EPA will release the final PA document later Spring 2022. EPA is on target to propose its decision on review of the PM NAAQS by Summer 2022 and final decision by Spring 2023.

For more information on EPA's reconsideration of the Decision to Retain the 2012 PM NAAQS, please visit <https://casac.epa.gov>.

## **Reconsideration of the Decision to Retain 2015 Ground-level Ozone NAAQS**

On October 29, 2021, EPA announced it will reconsider the 2020 decision to retain the 2015 ozone NAAQS. EPA is targeting December 2023 to complete the reconsideration.

A virtual public meeting will be held for the CASAC Ozone Panel to receive a briefing from EPA on the draft policy assessment that will support the agency's reconsideration of the 2020 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). A second virtual public meeting will be held for the panel to peer review the agency's draft policy assessment for the reconsideration.

The virtual public meeting for the panel to receive the briefing from EPA will be held on April 29, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

The virtual public meeting for the panel to peer review the draft policy assessment document will be held on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Friday, June 10, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Monday, June 13, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and Friday, June 17, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All times listed are in Eastern Time.

Please refer to the CASAC website at <https://casac.epa.gov> for details on how to access the meetings. For more information regarding these meetings, please refer to the April 4, 2022 Federal Register announcement: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-04-04/pdf/2022-07014.pdf>

On April 29, 2022, EPA released the public draft document *Policy Assessment for the Reconsideration of the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards, External Review Draft* (Draft PA), prepared as part of the reconsideration of the 2020 decision to retain the ozone NAAQS. Comments must be received on or before May 31, 2022.

Link to the April 29, 2022, Federal Register announcement, which provides information on how to submit comments: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-04-29/pdf/2022-09214.pdf>

Link to the Draft PA: [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-04/o3\\_reconsideration\\_draft\\_pa-v\\_final-compressedfinal.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-04/o3_reconsideration_draft_pa-v_final-compressedfinal.pdf)

### **Ozone Determinations of Attainment:**

On April 13, 2022, EPA proposed determinations as to whether nonattainment areas under the 2008 and 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS had attained those standards by the attainment date.

The areas addressed in the 2008 ozone NAAQS proposal are currently classified as “Serious” nonattainment and were required to attain the standards by July 20, 2021. EPA based these determinations on the most recent publicly available and certified ozone monitoring data, from the years 2018-2020. The published Federal Register (FR) proposal is here:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-04-13/pdf/2022-07509.pdf> and a summary fact sheet is available here: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution/2008-ozone-national-ambient-air-quality-standards-naaqs-nonattainment>.

### **Summary of 2008 ozone NAAQS proposal:**

- Deny 1-year extension for Houston attainment date
- Find Houston did not attain by attainment date, reclassify to Severe, SIP revisions due to EPA no later than 18 months after effective date of reclassification to Severe

The areas addressed in the 2015 ozone NAAQS proposal are currently classified as “Marginal” nonattainment and were required to attain the standards by August 3, 2021. EPA based these determinations on the most recent publicly available and certified ozone monitoring data, from the years 2018-2020. The published FR proposal is here: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-04-13/pdf/2022-07513.pdf> and a summary fact sheet is available here: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution/proposed-determinations-attainment-attainment-date-extensions-0>.

### **Summary of 2015 ozone NAAQS proposal:**

- Find Houston did not attain by attainment date, reclassify to Moderate, SIP revisions due to EPA no later than January 1, 2023

The comment period for each proposal closes on June 13, 2022. A virtual hearing will be held for each proposed action on May 9, 2022. Information regarding submitting comments and attending the virtual hearings are provided in each FR proposal action.