

# RAQPAC Notes – EPA Update

6/30/2022 Meeting

## **Reconsideration of the EPA’s December 2020 Decision to Retain 2012 Particulate Matter (PM) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)**

On April 14, 2022, EPA announced the availability of the [“Supplement to the 2019 Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter \(Final\)”](#). On May 26, 2022, EPA announced the availability of the [“Policy Assessment for the Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter \(Final\)”](#). The final Policy Assessment (PA) concludes that:

- The scientific evidence and information support revising the level of the annual standard for the PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS to below the current level of 12 ug/m<sup>3</sup> (and down as low as 8 ug/m<sup>3</sup>) while retaining the 24-hour standard
- The scientific evidence and information does not call into question the adequacy of the current Primary PM<sub>10</sub> Standard or PM Secondary Standards

EPA is on target to propose its decision on review of the PM NAAQS by Summer 2022 and issue a 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**

A virtual public meeting was originally scheduled on 6/8, 6/10, 6/13, and 6/17/22 for the CASAC Ozone Panel to peer review the agency’s Draft PA for the reconsideration. On May 13, 2022, the CASAC Ozone Panel elected to pause the review of the Draft PA, and used the scheduled meetings on 6/8 & 6/10 for the panel to decide if they wanted to further discuss the science prior to reviewing the Draft PA. The meetings scheduled for 6/13 and 6/17 were cancelled.

From the June 8 & 10 meetings, the CASAC Ozone Review Panel has agreed that a fuller discussion on the science is needed before moving forward on reconsideration of this NAAQS.

July 12, 2022 Update: The EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office announces two public meetings of the CASAC Ozone Review Panel. A public meeting will be held for the CASAC Ozone Review Panel to receive a briefing from EPA on the 2020 Ozone Integrated Science Assessment (ISA) and to hear public comments. A second public meeting will be held for the panel to discuss scientific issues related to the 2020 Ozone ISA.

The public meeting for the panel to receive the briefing from EPA and public comments will be held on August 29, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The public meeting for the panel to discuss scientific issues related to the 2020 Ozone ISA will be held on Monday, September 12, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday, September 14, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and Friday, September 16, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 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 July 12, 2022 Federal Register announcement: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-07-12/pdf/2022-14812.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 closed on June 13, 2022. EPA received relevant adverse comments on each proposed action & is currently working to respond to comments and take final action.

**EPA Clean School Bus Program: 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates**

\$500 million is now available for 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates, EPA is conducting webinars in advance of the August 19, 2022 application deadline:

- July 13 @ 1PM ET – Office of the Inspector General: Fraud Prevention & Best Practices
  - July 17: [Green Bus Summit](#) - Peppermill Resort, Reno NV.
- July 27 @ 1PM ET – How to Apply with Live Q&A
- August 10 @ 1PM ET – U.S. Department of Agriculture: Rural Electric Cooperatives Infrastructure Funding