

# **ADVANCE**

A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Program

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WESTAR Presentation

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# Overview

- Status of Ozone and PM NAAQS
- Implications of Nonattainment
- What is the Advance program?
  - What are the goals of the program?
  - How might you benefit from participating in Advance?
  - What are the requirements?
  - Will we avoid a future nonattainment designation if we sign up for Advance?
  - Who is participating?
  - Where can I get more information?



# Status of NAAQS Reviews (December 2024)

	Ozone	PM
<b>Last Review Completed</b> (final rule signed)	Dec 2020	Dec 2020/Feb 2024 Combined primary and secondary (non-ecological effects) review of PM
<b>Recent or Upcoming Major Milestone(s)</b>	<u>May 2024</u> <a href="#">Science Policy Workshop</a> <u>Dec 2024/Jan 2025</u> <u>IRP Volumes 1 and 2</u>	<u>March 6, 2024</u> Final Rule, effective May 6, 2024
<p>Additional information regarding current and previous NAAQS reviews is available at:  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/naaqs">https://www.epa.gov/naaqs</a>  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution">https://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution</a></p>		

# Implications of Nonattainment

- Attainment Plan & Maintenance Planning
  - Process takes more than 20 years.
  - Adopt and implement control measures that become federally enforceable.
  - Air agencies develop plans to demonstrate how the area will attain the NAAQS, and then, maintain the NAAQS for 2 10-year maintenance periods.
  - Plans must be approved by EPA for the area to be redesignated back to attainment.
  - In Tribal areas, Tribes or EPA can develop the plans.
- Attain by the attainment date or the area can be bumped up to a more stringent classification that requires more control measures.

# Additional Implications of Nonattainment

- Major Nonattainment NSR Permitting Program (New Source Review)
  - Applies instead of PSD (Prevention of Significant Deterioration).
  - Ensures that new and modified sources don't impede progress.
  - Lowest available emission reduction (LAER).
  - Emission offsets.
- Conformity required for Federal actions.
  - Federal agencies cannot adopt, accept, approve or fund activities unless they conform to (are consistent with) air quality goals in the approved SIP.
  - Transportation conformity applies to Federal highway and transit projects and requires emissions budgets be set for transportation improvement projects.
  - General conformity applies to all other Federal actions.

# What is the Advance Program?

The Advance Program is a voluntary, collaborative initiative between EPA, state and local governments, and tribes established in 2012

Areas designated as **attainment** for the Ozone and/or PM2.5 NAAQS develop plans and take actions in their communities to proactively reduce emissions, improve air quality, and remain in attainment

Program promotes opportunities for addressing climate, toxics, and environmental justice concerns

# EPA Advance Program Areas- Current Partners

50 Areas:

- 29 Ozone
- 6 PM2.5
- 17 Both

Greater than 52 million population

**Program**

- Both Ozone and PM Advance Areas
- Ozone Advance Areas
- PM Advance Areas



Sources: Esri, USGS, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA

# Goals

- **Meet** air quality, sustainability, climate change, environmental justice objectives in concert with economic development
- **Maintain** and improve air quality and public health
- **Prevent** Ozone and PM nonattainment areas
  - Efficiently direct available resources toward actions to address air quality problems quickly
- **Integrate** work on Advance with other priorities
  - Climate and sustainability
  - Environmental justice
  - Multipollutant risk areas





# Programs and Initiatives in Advance plans

Mobile Source Programs



Energy Efficiency; Renewable Energy



Green Infrastructure; Heat Island Programs



Wood Smoke Reduction



Education and Increased Awareness



Stationary Source Programs



All plans submitted to EPA on SharePoint

# Emissions Reductions Efforts

## Benefits of Early Efforts

- May help prevent nonattainment
- Provides continued health protection
- Provides local control in reducing air pollution

## Advance

- Provides a framework for proactive local efforts
- Partnership – e.g., states, tribes, local governments, key stakeholders, EPA
- Participants set their own goals and measures in a “path forward”
- If the area is designated nonattainment, the early efforts may:
  - result in a lower classification
  - be used in an implementation plan

# Why Areas Join the Advance Program

Cost of remaining in attainment is less than cost of meeting nonattainment/maintenance area requirements

Reduce emissions, improve air quality, improve public health, achieve climate co-benefits

Multi- pollutant emphasis

Provides forum for community and stakeholder collaboration on clean air and related issues

Participation with EPA provides credibility and demonstrates the area's clean air commitment

Access to EPA expertise and technical assistance opportunities

Advance areas have flexibility to include broad array of programs and initiatives in their plans

- Air quality, sustainable economic development, energy efficiency and climate, air toxics/environmental justice, cleaner transportation, etc.

Learn best practices from other Advance areas through collaboration, and with EPA index of programs and initiatives in previously submitted plans.

Educates public and community about air quality and health

Promotes positive actions by industry, government, public stakeholders

Commitment to update Advance annual plan serves as a driver for action and stakeholder input

# Advance Program Recent Improvements

Streamlined reporting  
process

Advance Program Tool that  
shows emissions, design  
values and air quality  
changes

Advance Database that  
details programs and  
projects, metrics, EJ  
considerations, Climate  
consideration and pollutant  
reductions

Monthly webinars and  
collaboration with other  
Advance areas

Expanded community and  
stakeholder collaboration on  
clean air and related issues

Website Redesign

# Program Requirements

1

Identify your lead governmental organization(s).

2

Conduct stakeholder meetings and identify priority emission reductions.

3

Within one year, submit the initial “Path Forward” plan for the area, in consultation with EPA.

4

Provide an annual Advance plan revision by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

# Will the Ozone and PM Advance Program Protect My Area From a Nonattainment Designation?

- Signing up for Advance will NOT guarantee that your area will avoid future designations.
- Taking robust, expeditious actions could help some areas clean up their air quality enough to affect designations or help you get into attainment more quickly.
- Areas that are eventually designated can also benefit from early actions taken to reduce Ozone and PM.



# Questions to consider about evaluating Ozone and PM for your area

- What can monitor and modeling tell us about PM 2.5 in my area?
- How is ozone and PM affecting vulnerable communities in your area?
- What can your community do to better control the sources of ozone and PM?
- What actions can you take now to avoid an ozone and PM nonattainment designation OR to more quickly get back into attainment?
- What actions could be counted in a SIP if your areas was to become designated.

[\\*Final Updates to the Air Quality Index \(AQI\) for Particulate Matter  
https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/](https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/)

# Examples of Ozone Advance Project: New Mexico

- New Mexico's rule adopted California's Low-Emission Vehicle criteria pollutant and greenhouse gas emission regulations and Zero-Emission Vehicle regulations under Section 177 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. §7507).
- New Mexico Clean Diesel Program is to reduce the amount of air pollution created by diesel-fueled heavy-duty trucks and buses to which the residents of New Mexico are exposed.
- To address the high ozone concentrations in NM, NMED has embarked on the Ozone Attainment Initiative (OAI) to protect the ozone attainment status of the state and ensure health and welfare of the residents of the state for future generations. The Initiative's planning and outreach efforts will include the following nine counties: Chavez, Doña Ana, Eddy, Lea, Rio Arriba, San Juan, Santa Fe, Sandoval and Valencia. This Initiative is undertaken pursuant to the Air Quality Control Act at NMSA 1978, Section 74-2-5(C).



# Examples of Ozone Advance Project: Pikes Peak, CO

- The region offered zero-fare transit service in the peak summer ozone months and had record high ridership thanks to funding made available by our state legislature and the main transit agency (MMT/Metro Mountain Transit by Colorado Springs) plus a smaller suburban provider (Fountain Transit) the past two summers.
- CO's focus on requiring reductions in GHG emissions, which should also have co-benefits with ozone precursor emissions. Major sectors, like energy production and transportation, have been required to demonstrate emissions reductions by certain horizon target years. Local utility companies made progress in diversifying their energy mix and retiring older coal burning power plants.

# Current WESTAR Advance Program Partner Areas

STATE	AREA	PARTNER	EPA Region	EPA Regional Contact	
CO	Colorado Springs	Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments	EPA Region 8	<a href="mailto:Lang.Matthew@epa.gov">Lang.Matthew@epa.gov</a> <a href="mailto:Cancino.Chelsea@epa.gov">Cancino.Chelsea@epa.gov</a>	Blue = Ozone Advance Red = PM Advance
NV	Washoe County	Washoe County Health District, Air Quality Management Division	EPA Region 9	<a href="mailto:Graham.AshleyR@epa.gov">Graham.AshleyR@epa.gov</a>	
ID	Salmon	Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality	EPA Region 10	<a href="mailto:vaupel.claudia@epa.gov">vaupel.claudia@epa.gov</a>	
ID	St. Maries	Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality	EPA Region 10	<a href="mailto:vaupel.claudia@epa.gov">vaupel.claudia@epa.gov</a>	
OR	Prineville	Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality	EPA Region 10	<a href="mailto:vaupel.claudia@epa.gov">vaupel.claudia@epa.gov</a>	

# Current WESTAR Advance Program Partner Areas

STATE	AREA	PARTNER	EPA Region	EPA Regional Contact
NM	Albuquerque / Bernalillo County	City of Albuquerque / Bernalillo County	Region 6	<a href="mailto:paige.carrie@epa.gov">paige.carrie@epa.gov</a> / <a href="mailto:Tsui-Bowen.Alethea@epa.gov">Tsui-Bowen.Alethea@epa.gov</a>
NM	Doña Ana County (partial)	New Mexico Environment Dept.	Region 6	<a href="mailto:paige.carrie@epa.gov">paige.carrie@epa.gov</a> <a href="mailto:Tsui-Bowen.Alethea@epa.gov">Tsui-Bowen.Alethea@epa.gov</a>
NM	Eddy County	New Mexico Environment Dept.	Region 6	<a href="mailto:paige.carrie@epa.gov">paige.carrie@epa.gov</a> <a href="mailto:Tsui-Bowen.Alethea@epa.gov">Tsui-Bowen.Alethea@epa.gov</a>
NM	Lea County	New Mexico Environment Dept.	Region 6	<a href="mailto:paige.carrie@epa.gov">paige.carrie@epa.gov</a> <a href="mailto:Tsui-Bowen.Alethea@epa.gov">Tsui-Bowen.Alethea@epa.gov</a>
NM	San Juan County	New Mexico Environment Dept	Region 6	<a href="mailto:paige.carrie@epa.gov">paige.carrie@epa.gov</a> <a href="mailto:Tsui-Bowen.Alethea@epa.gov">Tsui-Bowen.Alethea@epa.gov</a>
NM	Valencia County	New Mexico Environment Dept	Region 6	<a href="mailto:paige.carrie@epa.gov">paige.carrie@epa.gov</a> <a href="mailto:Tsui-Bowen.Alethea@epa.gov">Tsui-Bowen.Alethea@epa.gov</a>



Questions?

Mia South

[south.mia@epa.gov](mailto:south.mia@epa.gov)

919-541-5550

[www.epa.gov/advance](http://www.epa.gov/advance)

# Appendix

## NAAQS Reviews and Designations

# National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) Reviews and Designations

- EPA reviews the NAAQS approximately every 5 years.
- If EPA revises a NAAQS, areas are designated within 2 years.
- EPA works closely with states, locals, and tribes throughout the process.
- In 2024, EPA revised the annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS to 9 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- EPA is currently reviewing the ozone NAAQS.

# Update on the Ozone NAAQS Reconsideration

- A high-level summary of the Workshop proceedings can be found here: <https://assessments.epa.gov/risk/document/&deid%3D362873> and includes a list of new, potentially relevant research identified over the course of the workshop.
- The Workshop discussions will inform the development of planning and assessment documents intended to serve as the foundation for the Agency's current review of the O3 NAAQS, including:

Integrated Review Plan: which will highlight the key policy-relevant issues and summarize anticipated assessment approaches;

Integrated Science Assessment: which will summarize and assess the most policy-relevant scientific evidence and make key science judgments, and quantitative air quality, risk, and exposure analyses, as warranted.

# PM<sub>2.5</sub> Designations

- [Initial Area Designations for the 2024 Revised Primary Annual Fine Particle National Ambient Air Quality Standard](#) memo issued February 7, 2024, with the promulgation of the revised NAAQS.
  - Outlines the designations process, schedule, categories, and roles for EPA and air agencies, pursuant to CAA §107(d).
  - Explains the five-factor analysis approach the EPA intends to use when evaluating S/T designations recommendations and determining nonattainment area boundaries. EPA is making [data sets and other information](#) available on its website.
  - Outlines EPA's approach to considering environmental justice in the designations process.
- [Policy for Establishing Separate Air Quality Designations for Areas of Indian Country](#) (December 20, 2011).
  - [Developing Designation Recommendations for Areas of Indian Country](#) (April 2018).



# Anticipated PM<sub>2.5</sub> Designations Schedule

Designations Action	Anticipated Date
EPA promulgates revised primary annual PM <sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS	Completed February 7, 2024
States certify 2023 PM <sub>2.5</sub> data; EPA calculates design values	Completed May-August 2024
States/Tribes submit designations recommendations to EPA	No later than February 7, 2025
States certify 2024 PM <sub>2.5</sub> data; EPA calculates design values	May 2025
EPA notifies States/Tribes concerning any intended modifications to their recommendations (120-day letters); 30-day public comment period begins	Mid-October 2025 (≥120 days prior to final designations)
End of 30-day public comment period	Mid-November 2025
States/Tribes submit additional information, if any, to respond to EPA's intended modification of recommended designations	Mid-December 2025
EPA final designations decisions (without extension)	February 6, 2026

# Implementation Timeline Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS

Designations Action	Anticipated Date
<b>Within 3 years after the promulgation, by, of a revised NAAQS</b> – All states and territories are required to submit SIP revisions to show they have the basic air quality management program components in place to implement the final NAAQS and address interstate transport. (CAA §110)	February 7, 2027
<b>Within 18 months after the effective date of nonattainment designation</b> – SIPs for attaining the PM <sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS are due. (CAA §189)	likely in 2027
<b>End of the 6th calendar year after the effective date of designations</b> – “Moderate” area attainment date. (CAA §188)	likely in 2032