

On October 1, 2015, the United States Protection Agency (EPA) announced the final 8-hour Ozone Standard. The EPA changed the 8-hour ozone standard from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to 70 ppb, which poses a major emission reduction concern for Arizona. Locally implemented pollution controls are unlikely to be effective at reducing ambient ozone levels across the State because ozone is a regional problem and caused primarily by cars. Arizona inspects vehicles for compliance with federal vehicle emissions standards but only the federal government has the authority to change the vehicle emission standards; therefore, the most effective Ozone reduction strategy for Arizona is outside State control.

Background

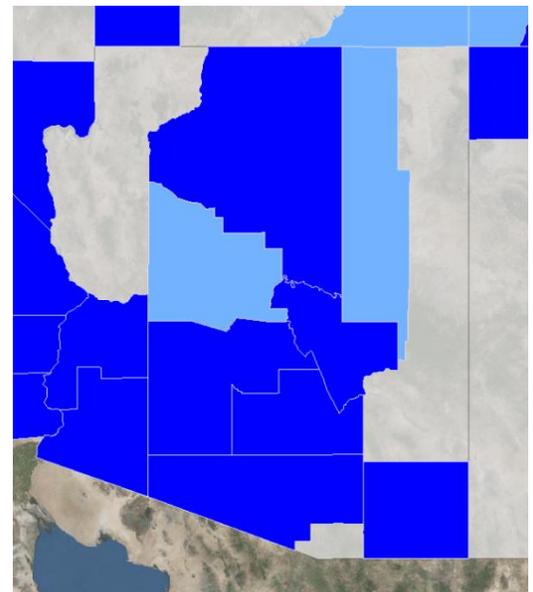
On November 25, 2014, in compliance with a Consent Decree, EPA proposed to change the existing national, health based standard for ozone air pollution concentrations, reducing the existing standard from 75 ppb to a value between 65 and 70 ppb. EPA also accepted comments on 60 ppb, and retaining the existing 75 ppb, but both are considered unlikely outcomes due to the uncertainty of the science and EPA’s analysis. In compliance with the Consent Decree, EPA announced the new standard of 70 ppb on October 1, 2015.

Current Status of Ozone in Arizona

- Of the 15 Arizona counties, 5 do not monitor ozone (Mohave, Apache, Graham, Greenlee, Santa Cruz).
- 9/10 counties with monitors exceed the proposed standard today;
 - Only county that doesn’t exceed is Navajo County (See Map Below)
- La Paz County, like many other rural counties, has 20,000 people, is the size of the state of Connecticut and has no viable local control options.

AZ Counties Meeting or Not Meeting Proposed Ozone NAAQS		
County	Concentrations 3-yr avg (ppb)	
	2011-2013	2012-2014
Cochise	73	71
Coconino	72	71
Gila	75	74
La Paz	72	72
Maricopa	81	80
Navajo	70	70
Pima	73	71
Pinal	76	73
Yavapai*	69	71
Yuma	76	77

*Yavapai County rolling average concentrations increased above 70 ppb threshold in 2014. Source: U.S. EPA, <http://www.epa.gov/airtrends/values.html>



Arizona Implementation Issues

- Industry is not a significant contributor to the concentrations of air pollution in Arizona.
 - New and modified major sources of ozone or its precursors will be required to remove (offset) more air pollution from existing sources than the new construction will emit to ensure air quality improvement.
 - Offsets are currently scarce in Maricopa County, non-existent in rural portions of the State.
- Chief sources of ozone and its precursor pollutants are vehicles and transport from out of State.
- Challenges: Vehicle emissions can only be regulated by EPA; California is already super-controlled for ozone; international transport from China and Mexico play a significant role in the West.
- Monitoring for ozone in the West will be extended from summer season to year round monitoring.
- Arizona's recommendations will be based on data from 2013-2015 or 2014-2016. Average concentrations should slightly improve because 2015 has been cleaner than the year it replaces (2012).
- EPA expects attainment in Arizona by 2025, with the exception of Coconino, Yuma, and Cochise counties.

Next Steps

- EPA is citing the following "existing rules" as the primary contribution toward future attainment:
 - Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for Electricity Generating Stations (rule was remanded by SCOTUS);
 - Tier 3 Vehicle Emissions and Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards (in place and working);
 - Regional Haze rules, especially as it relates to power plants;
 - Final Clean Power Plan (expected shift from fossil-fuel to zero emissions facilities).
- ADEQ anticipates a stakeholder driven process to ensure public participation in ADEQ's preliminary boundary designations recommendations for the Governor.
- Fall 2016, the Governor must make a recommendation to EPA on how to classify the air quality in Arizona.
- Fall 2017, after considering Governor's recommendations, EPA should finalize classifications.
- Fall 2020, ADEQ will submit State Implementation Plans to reduce the concentration of ozone in all areas classified as non-attainment.