

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Louisiana is hereby proposing revisions to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Baton Rouge ozone nonattainment area to address the federal Clean Air Act's (CAA) pollution control requirements for 1997 8-hour moderate ozone nonattainment areas and to demonstrate attainment by June 15, 2010. Louisiana is submitting this revision to the SIP for the Baton Rouge nonattainment area to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which addresses the CAA's pollution control requirements as set forth in the March 21, 2008 Federal Register notice (73 FR 15087).

On July 18, 1997, EPA promulgated a revised 8-hour ozone standard of 0.080 parts per million (ppm). This new standard was more stringent than the previous 1-hour standard. The Baton Rouge 8-hour ozone nonattainment area consists of the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge in southern Louisiana. The Baton Rouge area was initially designated nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone standard on April 30, 2004, and classified as "marginal" based on a design value of 0.086 ppm, with an attainment date of June 15, 2007 (April 30, 2004, 69 FR 23858). The design value of an area, which characterizes the severity of the air quality concern, is represented by the annual fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour average ozone concentration measured at each monitor averaged over a three year period. The Baton Rouge nonattainment area did not attain the 8-hour ozone standard by the June 15, 2007 deadline for marginal areas.

Section 181(b)(2)(A) of the CAA provides that, when EPA finds that an area fails to attain by the applicable date, the area is reclassified, by operation of law, to the higher classification applicable to the area's ozone design value at the time of the required notice under Section 182(b)(2)(B). The applicable classification was based on a design value of 0.091 ppm based on quality-assured ozone monitoring data from 2004-2006. Therefore, the Baton Rouge ozone nonattainment area was reclassified, by operation of law, as "moderate". Moderate areas are required to attain the standard "as expeditiously as practicable" but no later than 6 years after designation. Based on this reclassification, the area's new attainment date is June 15, 2010.

As of December 31, 2008, the area monitored attainment and has requested a redesignation to attainment. A maintenance plan is being submitted under separate cover.

Further, the area has requested a formal determination of attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard. EPA proposed approval of this request on March 26, 2009 (74 FR 13166).

The proposed revisions to the ozone attainment SIP for Baton Rouge to fulfill “moderate” area CAA requirements as directed in the March 2008 Federal Register notice (73 FR 15087) include:

- (1) An attainment demonstration (40 CFR 51.908);
- (2) Provisions for reasonable available control technology (RACT) and reasonably available control measures (RACM) (40 CFR 51.912);
- (3) Reasonable further progress reductions in volatile organic compound (VOC) and nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions (40 CFR 51.910);
- (4) Contingency measures to be implemented in the event of failure to meet a milestone or attain the standard (CAA 172(c)(9));
- (5) A vehicle inspection and maintenance program (40 CFR 51.350);
- (6) NO_x and VOC emissions offset of 1.15 to 1 for major source permits (40 CFR 165(a)).