

Air Quality Planning Progress and Challenges in Region 6

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September 2016



Overview

- Criteria Pollutant Progress
- Remaining Criteria Pollutant Challenges
- SIP Backlog Progress
- Continued Emphasis on Processing SIPs
- Robust Ambient Air Monitoring Networks
- Special Kudos to Texas for Monitoring



Criteria Pollutant Progress

- Crittenden County, AR and the Baton Rouge area redesignated to attainment for the 2008 8-hour ozone standard (75 ppb)
- Baton Rouge has a preliminary 8-hour ozone Design Value (DV) of 71 ppb indicating its close to meeting the 2015 ozone standard of 70 ppb
- Houston – only 2 of 20 monitors have preliminary DVs above 75 ppb
- DFW – only 1 of 17 monitors has a preliminary DV above 75 ppb



Remaining Criteria Pollutant Challenges in Region 6

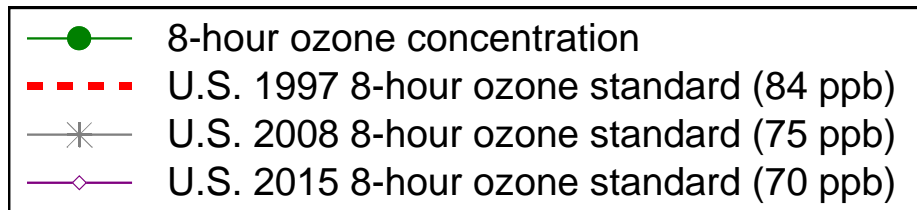
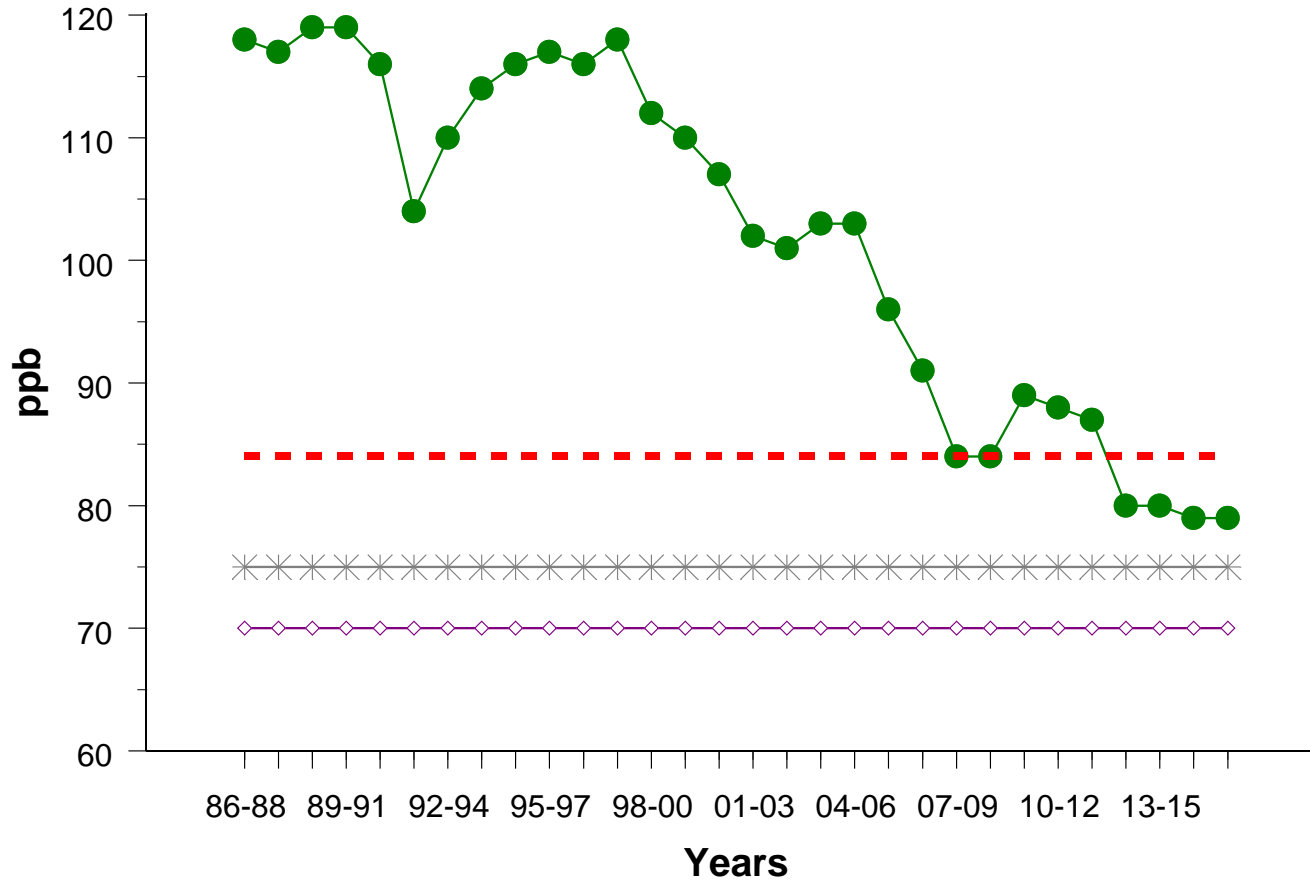
- Ozone levels in the Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth areas
- Implementing the 2015 ozone standard
- Implementing the 1-hour SO₂ standard



Houston 8-Hour Ozone Trends

3-year averages of annual 4th highs

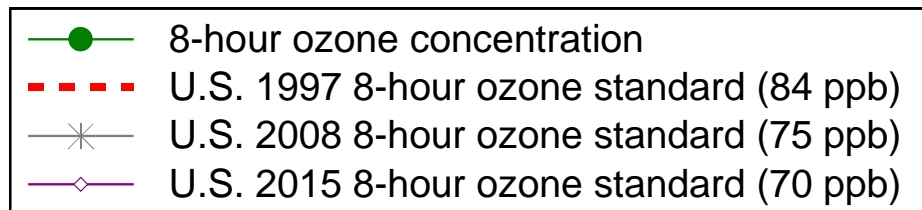
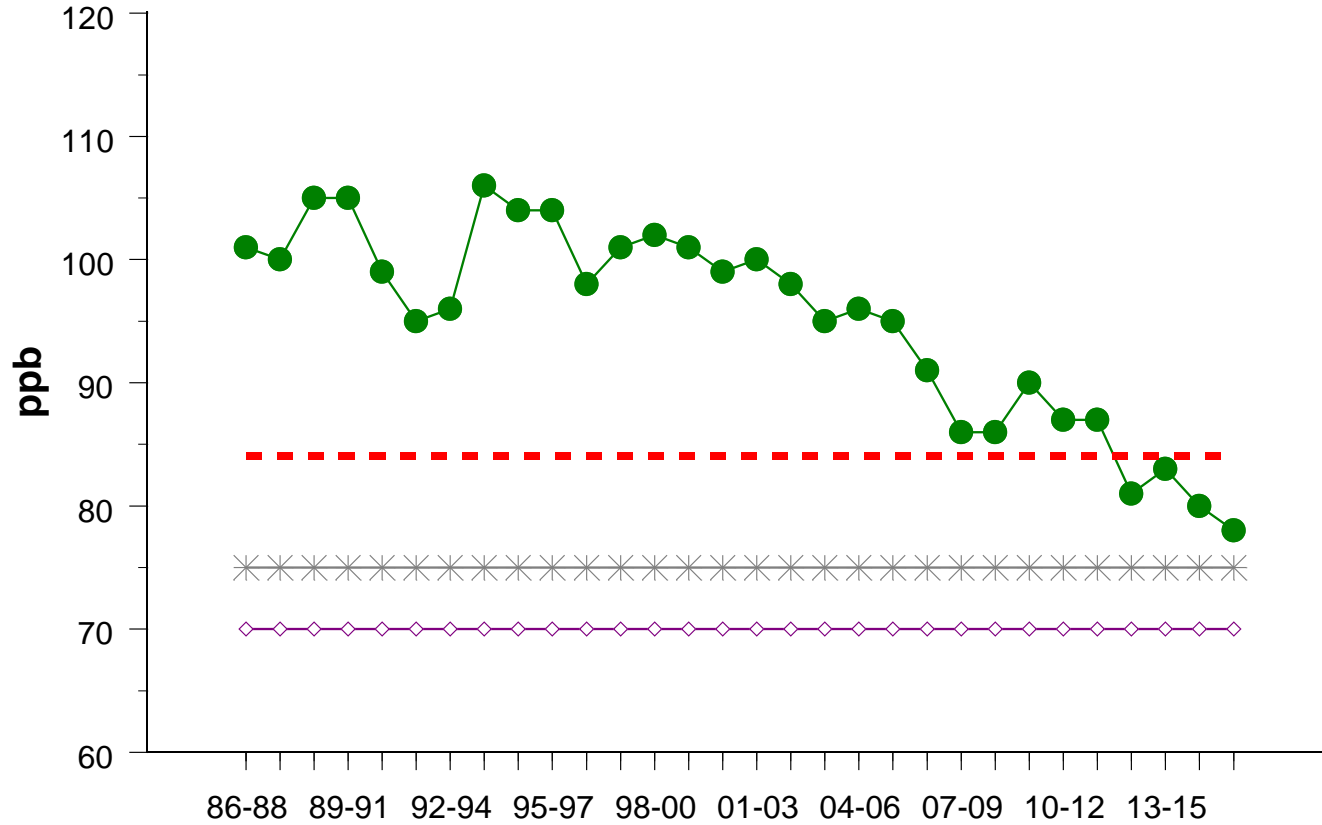
highest site in network each 3-year period



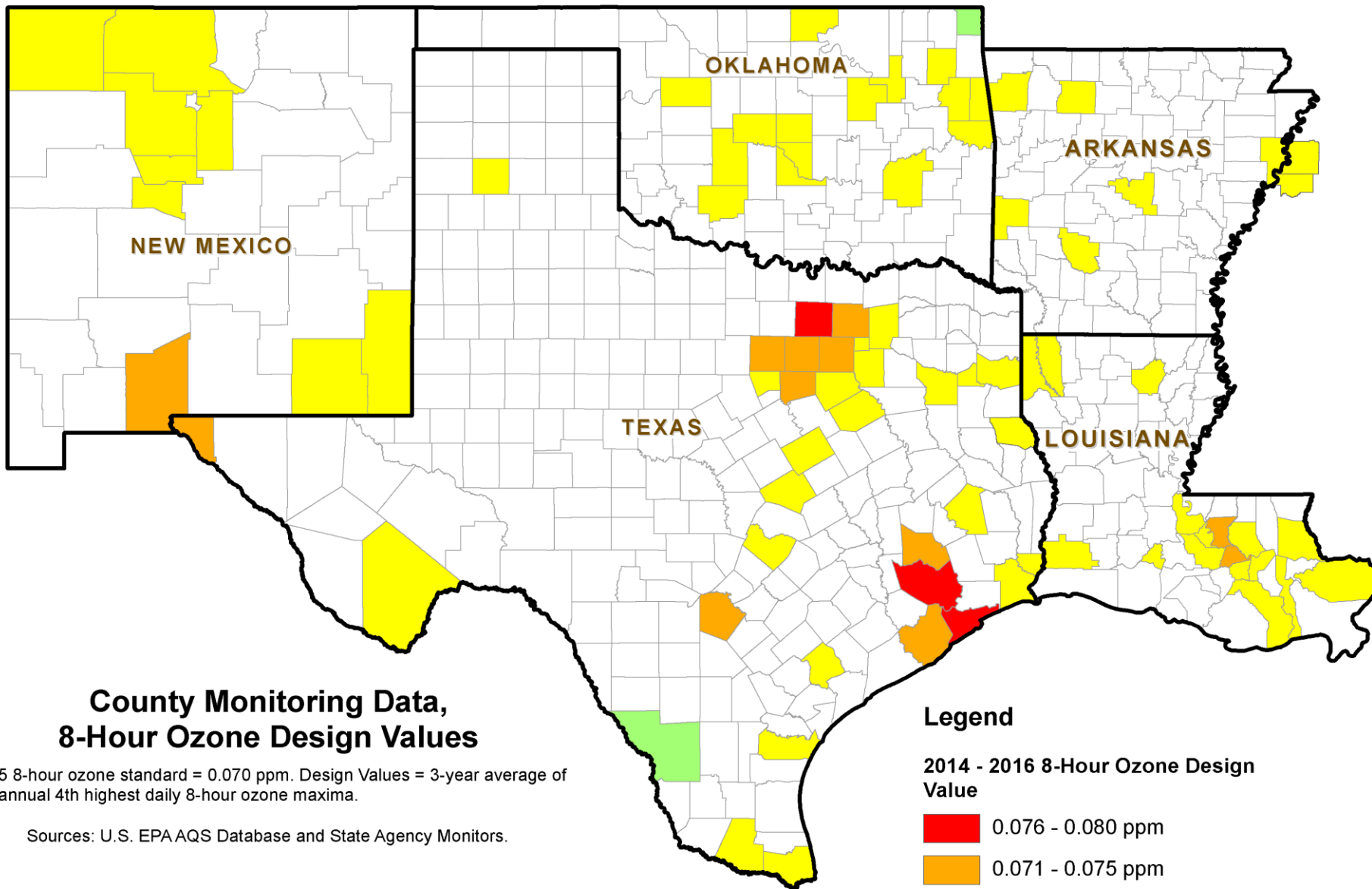
Dallas-Fort Worth 8-Hour Ozone Trends

3-year averages of annual 4th highs

highest site in network each 3-year period



Region 6 Ground Level Ozone Concentrations



County Monitoring Data, 8-Hour Ozone Design Values

2015 8-hour ozone standard = 0.070 ppm. Design Values = 3-year average of the annual 4th highest daily 8-hour ozone maxima.

Sources: U.S. EPA AQS Database and State Agency Monitors.

Legend

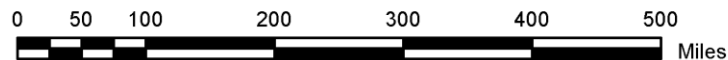
2014 - 2016 8-Hour Ozone Design Value

- 0.076 - 0.080 ppm
- 0.071 - 0.075 ppm
- 0.055 - 0.070 ppm
- < 0.055 ppm



EPA Region 6
GIS Multimedia Division
June 20, 2017

20170620DEG



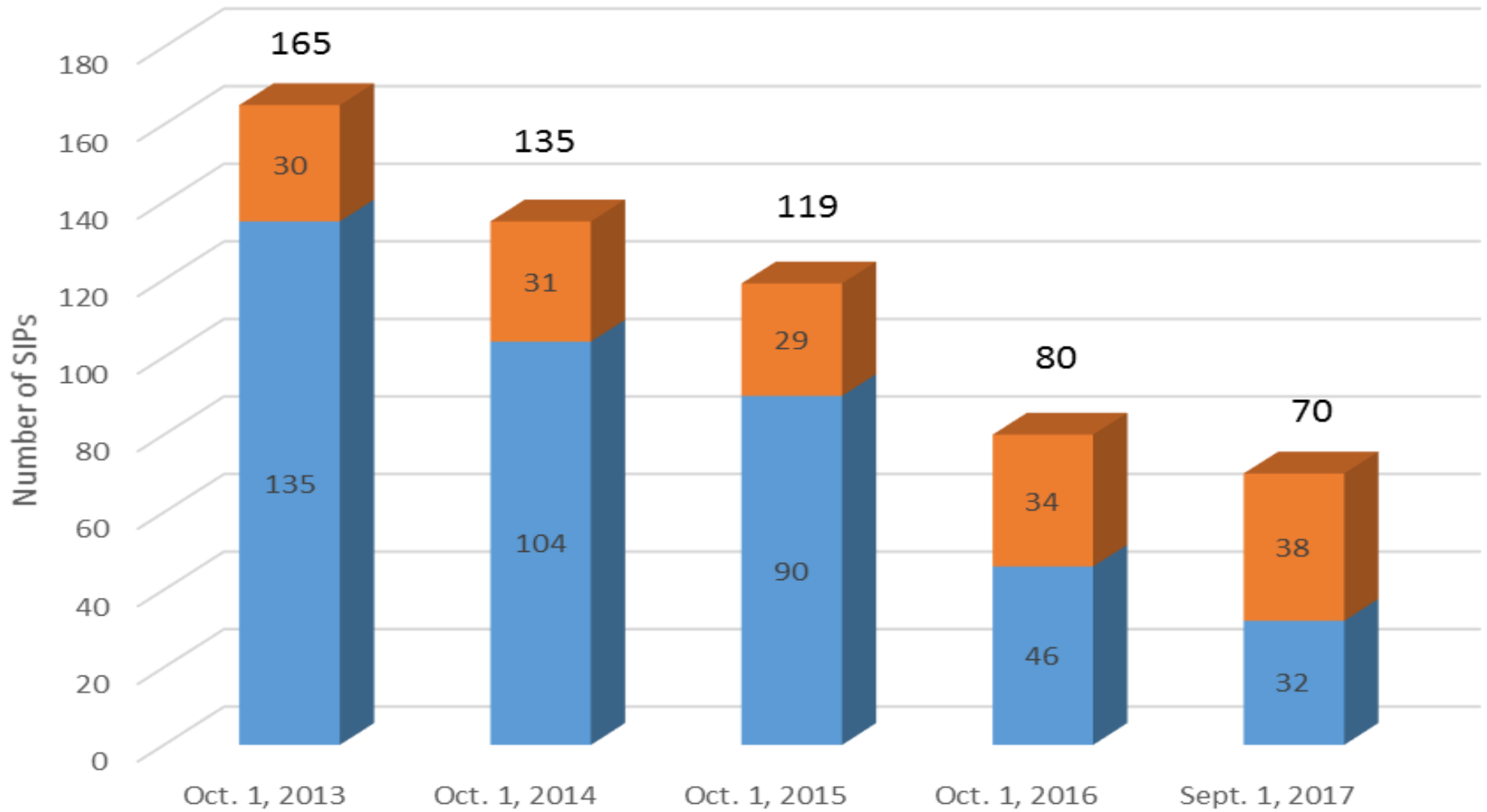
Implementing the SO₂ Standard: Nonattainment Designations

- Round 1 Nonattainment
 - St. Bernard Parish, LA
- Round 2 Nonattainment
 - TX: Titus County, Portion of Freestone and Anderson Counties, Portion of Rusk and Panola Counties
 - Reconsideration requested
- Round 3 – scheduled for Dec. 31, 2017
 - Aug. 22 letter to States
 - Evangeline Parish, LA may be violating
- Round 4 – scheduled for Dec. 31, 2020



R6 Air Program FY2017 Total SIPs In-House Current & Backlog

■ Backlog SIPs ■ Current SIPs



Continued Emphasis on Processing SIPs

- Eliminating the SIP backlog and acting on SIPs within Clean Air Act timelines remains an EPA priority



Robust Ambient Air Monitoring Networks

- 6 primary quality air organizations: states of AR, LA, NM, OK, and TX; City of Albuquerque
- 7 Tribes: Caddo, Choctaw, Cherokee, Delaware, Ft. Sill Apache, Kaw, Quapaw
- Just under 500 monitors collected data which is reported into the Air Quality System (AQS)
- Collect data for 6 NAAQS pollutants (ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, lead, particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), and sulfur dioxide)
- Support SIP planning, air quality area designations, Data Requirements Rule
- Monitor populations centers and wilderness areas



Special Kudos to Texas for Monitoring

- Took network along the Gulf Coast from Corpus Christi to Beaumont off line and stored equipment two days before Hurricane Harvey made landfall
- Surveyed locations for damage to buildings and equipment
- Replaced one trailer and several monitors
- Two weeks later, all monitoring locations back on line

