

SO₂ DESIGNATIONS

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2010 SO₂ NAAQS Designations: Round 1

- EPA revised **Primary NAAQS for Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) standard** on June 3, 2010 to 75 ppb/1-hour (75 FR 35520)
- EPA designated 29 areas as nonattainment on July 25, 2013 (Round 1)
 - **Guidance for 1-hr SO₂ NAAQS NAA SIP Submissions** was issued on April 23, 2014
 - Attainment plans for the 29 areas were due April 4, 2015
 - EPA issued findings of failure to submit (FFS) attainment plans for 16 areas in 11 states, effective April 18, 2016 (81 FR 14736; published March 18, 2016)
- EPA is working with affected states to develop SIPs and to take action on submitted SIPs

2010 SO₂ NAAQS Designations

- Consent decree entered on March 2, 2015, by U.S. District Court for Northern California in *SIERRA CLUB and NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL v. EPA* “triggered” the following deadlines:
 - July 2, 2016 - The EPA must complete a round of designations for 61 areas associated with approximately 64 EGUs in 24 states and any undesignated areas with violating monitors (“Round 2” designations)
 - December 31, 2017 - The EPA must complete an additional round of designations for any area a state has not established a new monitoring network by January 1, 2017 per the provisions of the SO₂ Data Requirements Rule (“Round 3” designations)
 - December 31, 2020 - The EPA must complete designations of all remaining, undesignated areas (expected to be areas where states elected to monitor per the provisions of the DRR) (“Round 4” designations)
- **Final Data Requirements Rule for 1-hr Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard** issued August 2015 (80 FR 50152), established requirements for air agencies to monitor or model ambient SO₂ levels in areas with largest sources of SO₂ emissions to help implement the 1-hour SO₂ NAAQS. Data gathered under this rulemaking is assisting EPA and states to conduct Rounds 3 and 4 of designations.

2010 SO₂ Designations: Rounds 2 and 3

- Round 2: In 2016, EPA finalized designations for 65 areas: 7 nonattainment areas, 41 unclassifiable/attainment areas, and 17 unclassifiable areas
 - For 61 areas, effective date of designations was Sept. 12, 2016, and for the 4 nonattainment areas in this group the state attainment SIP is due March 12, 2018
 - For 4 areas in Texas, the effective date of designations was Jan. 12, 2017, and for the 3 nonattainment areas in this group the state attainment SIP is due July 12, 2018
- Round 3: On August 22, 2017, EPA notified states and tribes concerning any intended modifications to their designation recommendations (“120-day letters”)
 - These responses included identification of 107 unclassifiable/attainment areas, 36 unclassifiable areas, and 11 potential nonattainment areas.
 - The notification of availability and public comment period was published on September 5, 2017 (82 FR 41903)
 - Public comment period ends on Oct. 5, 2017
 - States requested to provide final input by October 23, 2017
 - EPA signs notice promulgating final SO₂ area designations for Round 3 by no later than December 31, 2017



2010 SO₂ Designations: Round 4

- Round 3 SO₂ designations will designate all areas of the country, except those where states timely sited monitors consistent with the SO₂ Data Requirements Rule
- EPA will designate all remaining areas (approximately 50 areas) by the December 2020 consent decree deadline



Questions

