



# NAAQS & State/Federal Planning Updates



**AAPCA Spring  
Meeting**

**April 24-26, 2024**

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Air Quality Policy Division  
Office of Air Quality Planning  
& Standards



# Status of NAAQS Reviews (April 2024)

	Lead	Ozone	PM <sup>1</sup>	Secondary (Ecological) NO <sub>2</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sup>2</sup>	Primary NO <sub>2</sub>	Primary SO <sub>2</sub>	CO
<b>Last Review Completed</b> (final rule signed)	Sept 2016	Dec 2020	Dec 2020/Feb 2024	Mar 2012	April 2018	Feb 2019	Aug 2011
<b>Recent or Upcoming Major Milestone(s)</b>	<u>Feb 7, 2024</u> Final ISA <sup>3</sup> released  <u>Fall 2024</u> Draft PA <sup>3</sup>	<u>Aug 25, 2023</u> Call for Info. on the ISA <sup>3</sup>  <u>Spring 2024</u> Science Policy Workshop  <u>Fall 2024</u> Draft IRP <sup>3</sup> Volume 1 and 2	<u>January 2023</u> Proposed Rulemaking  <u>February 2024</u> Final Rule, effective May 6, 2024	<u>April 3, 2024</u> Proposed Rulemaking  <u>Dec. 10, 2024</u> Final Rulemaking (consent decree)	<u>Mar. 18, 2024</u> Draft IRP <sup>3</sup> Vol. 1 & 2 released for CASAC consultation on 4/16/2024	<u>TBD<sup>4</sup></u>	<u>TBD<sup>4</sup></u>
<b>Additional information regarding current and previous NAAQS reviews is available at: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/">http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/</a></b>							

<sup>1</sup> Combined primary and secondary (non-ecological effects) review of PM

<sup>2</sup> Combined secondary (ecological effects only) review of NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, and PM

<sup>3</sup> PA – Policy Assessment; REA – Risk and Exposure Assessment; IRP – Integrated Review Plan; ISA – Integrated Science Assessment

<sup>4</sup>TBD = To be determined

# Secondary (Ecological) NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, PM

- EPA proposed decisions in the combined review of the secondary standards for sulfur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>), nitrogen oxides (N oxides) and particulate matter (PM) for ecological effects. [89 FR 26620, April 15, 2024]
- The ecological effects addressed in this review include direct effects of N oxides and SO<sub>x</sub>, and PM loading on vegetation surfaces as well as ecological effects related to atmospheric deposition of S and N compounds in sensitive ecosystems.
- The decision proposes to revise the secondary sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) standard to an annual average of 10-15 ppb, averaged over three years, and solicits comment on alternatives.
- The decision proposes to retain the secondary nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and PM standards, without revision, and solicits comment on alternative approaches.
- Air quality analyses indicate that to meet the proposed revised secondary SO<sub>2</sub> standard no additional emissions reductions would be needed beyond any required to meet the current primary SO<sub>2</sub> standard. As such, no regulatory impact analysis was developed.

# Revised PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS Implementation

- **Effective date** of final revised NAAQS rule – stationary source permitting
  - Revised standard applies with respect to pre-construction Prevention of Significant Deterioration permitting upon the **May 6, 2024**, effective date of the revised standard.
- **Within 2 years after the promulgation, by February 7, 2026, of a revised NAAQS** – Based on available information, including most recent monitoring data, EPA must "designate" areas as meeting (attainment) or not meeting (nonattainment) the revised NAAQS considering input from states and tribes.
  - All PM<sub>2.5</sub> nonattainment areas are initially classified as "Moderate." (CAA §188)
  - Areas with insufficient information to make a determination are designated "unclassifiable." (CAA §107)
- **Within 3 years after the promulgation, by February 7, 2027, of a revised NAAQS** – 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)
- **Within 18 months after the effective date of nonattainment designation** – SIPs for attaining the PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS are due, likely 2027. (CAA §189)
- **End of the 6th calendar year after the effective date of designations** – "Moderate" area attainment date, likely 2032. (CAA §188)

# Implementing Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> Standard

- [Guidance on Infrastructure State Implementation Plan \(SIP\) Elements under Clean Air Act Sections 110\(a\)\(1\) and 110\(a\)\(2\)](#) – EPA-issued multi-pollutant guidance document for states submitting “infrastructure SIPs”. (September 13, 2013)
  - Revised infrastructure SIP due February 7, 2027
  - Interstate transport – see EPA’s 2032 projection of future violating areas; more information from EPA in coming months
- [Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards: State Implementation Plan \(SIP\) Requirements](#) – Final EPA SIP Requirements Rule that established planning requirements for states with areas that do not meet the PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS. (81 FR 58010, August 24, 2016; 40 CFR Subpart Z, §51.1000)
- [Fine Particulate Matter \(PM<sub>2.5</sub>\) Precursor Demonstration Guidance](#) – Recommendations for optional demonstrations designed to show that for a specific PM<sub>2.5</sub> nonattainment area, emissions of a particular precursor from sources in the area do not or would not contribute significantly to PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels that exceed the standard, as allowed by the PM<sub>2.5</sub> SIP Requirements Rule. (May 30, 2019)

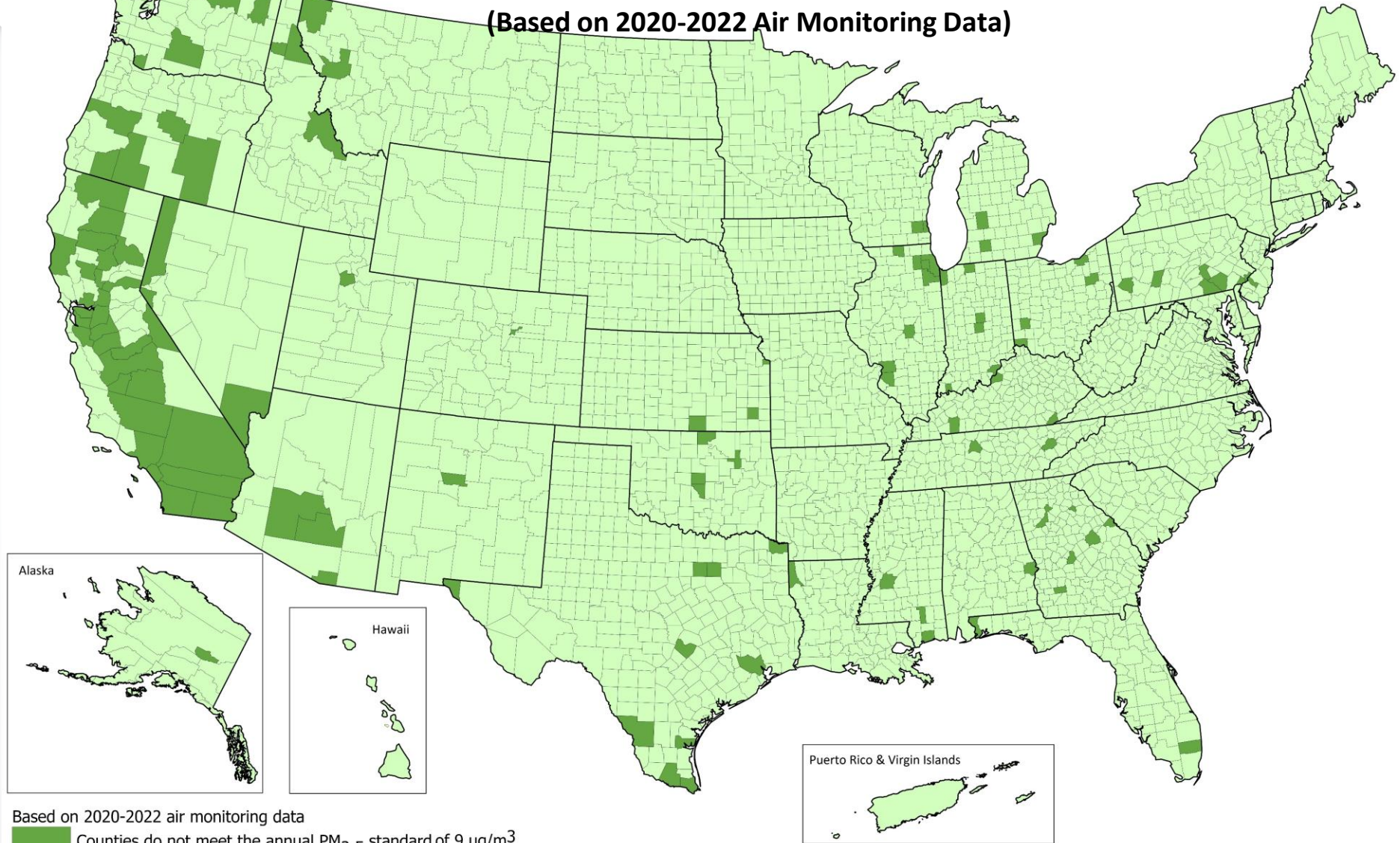
# PM<sub>2.5</sub> Designations Memorandum

- [Initial Area Designations for the 2024 Revised Primary Annual Fine Particle National Ambient Air Quality Standard](#) 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). CAA defines nonattainment area as both the location where a monitor indicates there is a violation and all nearby areas that contribute to the monitored violation.
- Explains the five-factor analysis approach the EPA intends to use when evaluating S/T designations recommendations and determining nonattainment area boundaries.
  - Data sets and other information available at <https://www.epa.gov/particle-pollution-designations/particle-pollution-designations-memorandum-and-data-2024-revised#B>
- [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)

# Most Counties with Monitors Already Meet the Strengthened Particle Pollution Standard

(Based on 2020-2022 Air Monitoring Data)

Note: Map reflects monitored counties with complete monitoring data. Does not reflect all potential exceptional events or proposed FEM data alignment. Future final designations of attainment/nonattainment will not be based on these data, but likely on monitoring data collected between 2022 and 2024. Of the 119 counties with 2020-2022 design values above  $9 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , 59 counties are totally or partially contained in nonattainment areas for current  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  standards.



This information is provided for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to predict the outcome of any forthcoming designations process.





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

Designations Action	Anticipated Date
EPA promulgates revised primary annual PM <sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS	February 7, 2024
States certify 2023 PM <sub>2.5</sub> data; EPA calculates design values	May-June, 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



# Exceptional Event Demonstration Schedule

(40 CFR 50.14, Table 2)

Exceptional Events Action	Applicable Data Years*	Deadline
Initial Notifications for Designations Recommendations	2021, 2022, 2023	No later than January 1, 2025
Exceptional Events Demonstration Submittal	2021, 2022, 2023	No later than February 7, 2025
Initial Notification and Exceptional Events Demonstration Submittal	2024	September 30, 2025
EPA Promulgates Final Area Designations	2022, 2023, 2024	February 6, 2026

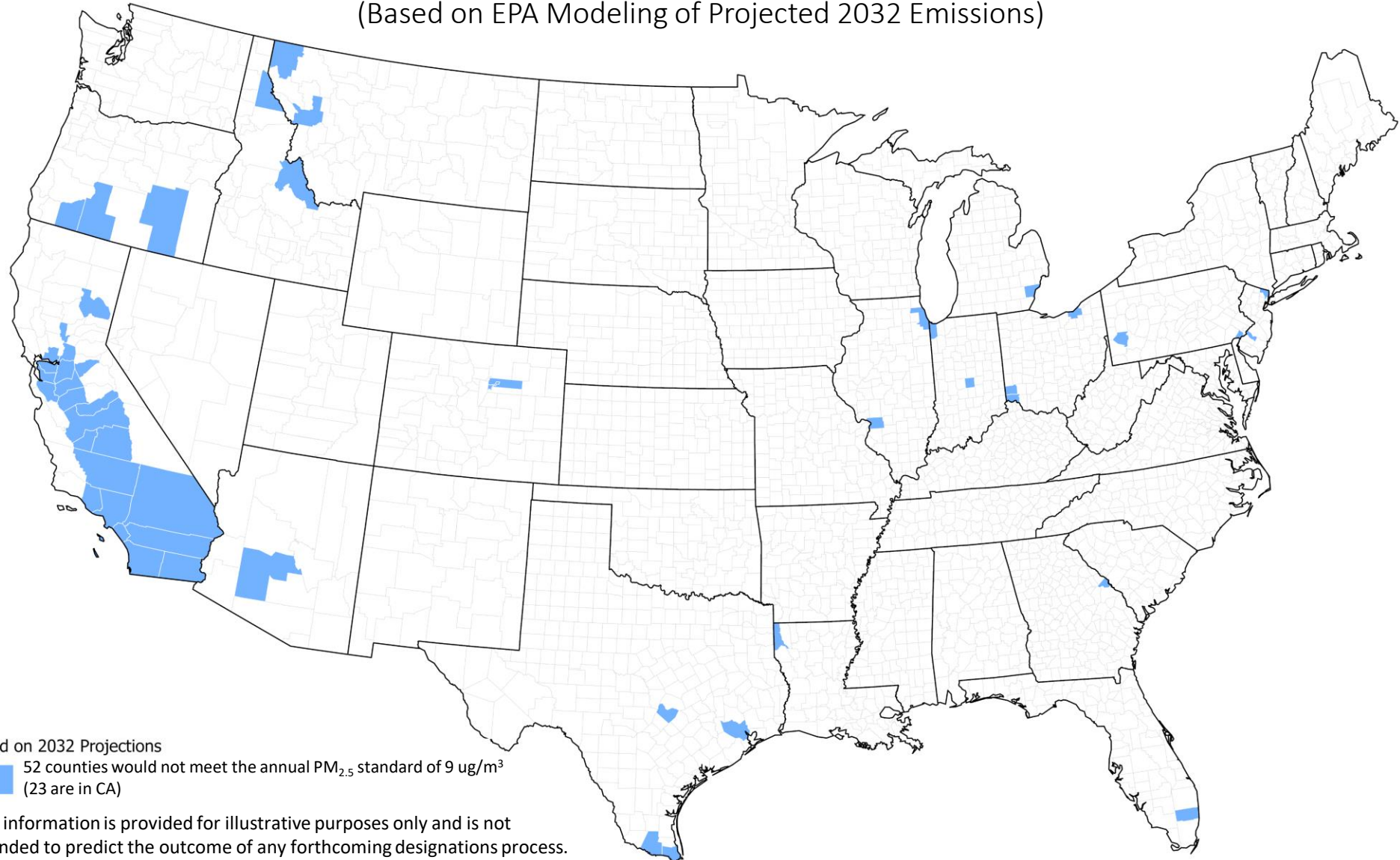
\*States and Tribes are not required to submit exceptional events demonstrations for data years not relied on for final area designations (e.g., 2021), but should address any 2021 data they believe was influenced by an exceptional event in their area designations recommendations to the EPA due February 2025.

# EPA Projects More than 99% of Counties would Meet the Revised Fine Particle Pollution Standard

## Projection of Counties with Monitors that would not Meet in 2032

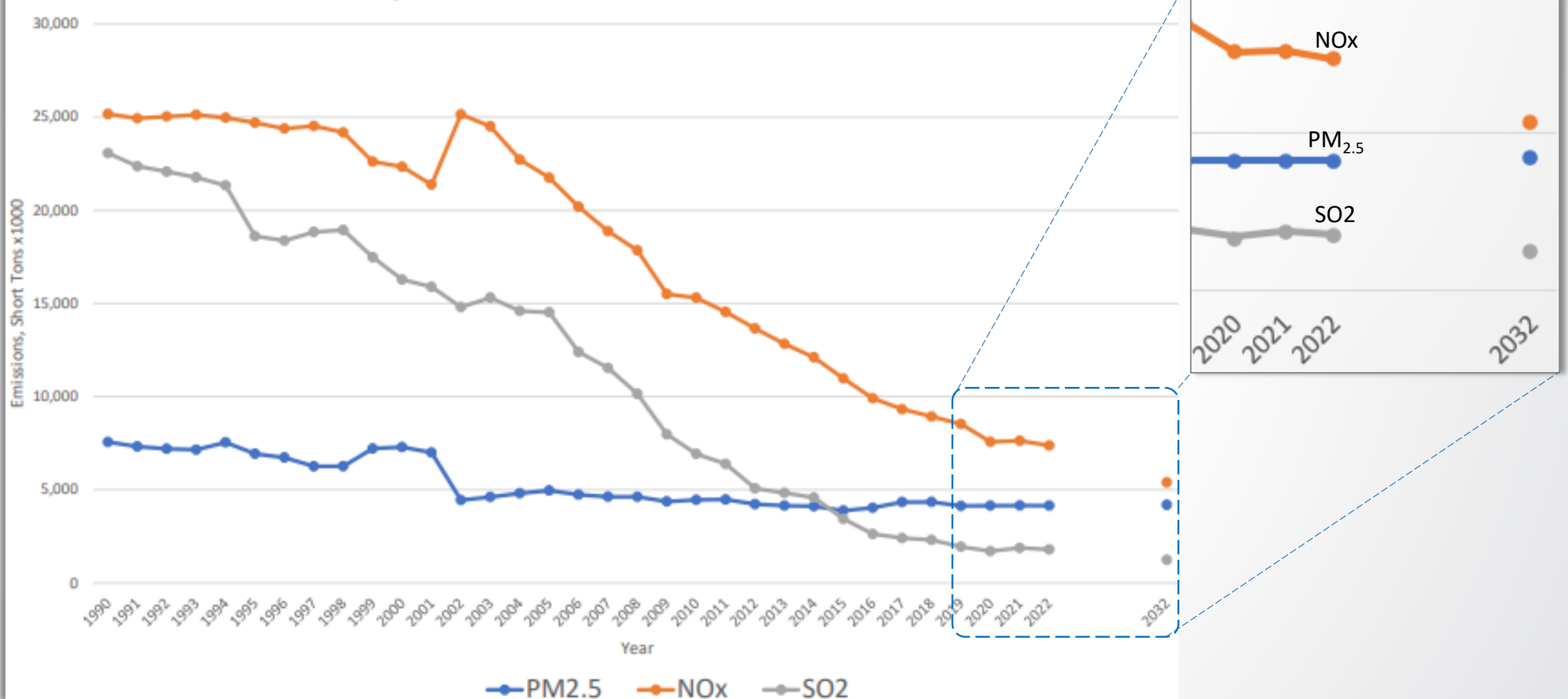
(Based on EPA Modeling of Projected 2032 Emissions)

Note: EPA projected future annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels only for counties with monitoring data and within the contiguous 48 states. Modeled emissions are developed from a 2018 base year and used in projecting 2016-2020 monitoring data. Projected emissions reflect expected reductions from federal regulations that have been finalized as of March 2023. Some nonattainment areas would have longer than 2032 to attain the revised PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard.



# EPA Projects Continued Reduction of Emissions that Cause Fine Particle Pollution

Emissions Trends for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, and NO<sub>x</sub> from 1990-2022 and 2032 (projected)



# Other NAAQS/SIP Updates

# NAAQS Implementation Plans and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act

- Clean Air Act section 110(a)(2)(E)(i) requires that each State Implementation Plan (SIP) provide “**necessary assurances**” that the state is **not prohibited by any provisions of federal law** from carrying out such implementation plan.
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) prohibits recipients of federal financial assistance from discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin.
- In Oct. 2022, EPA stated that national guidance concerning implementation of section 110(a)(2)(E)(i) as it pertains to Title VI would be “forthcoming.” (87 FR 60494 Oct. 5, 2022)

# Start-Up, Shutdown and Malfunction (SSM) Provisions in SIPs

- On March 1, 2024, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals issued a decision in *Environ. Comm. Fl. Elec. Power v. EPA*, No. 15-1239.
- The case is a consolidated set of petitions for review of EPA's June 12, 2015, final action relating to SSM provisions SIPs (2015 SSM SIP Action, 80 FR 33840).
- The Court granted the petitions in part, vacating the SIP calls as to those based on automatic exemptions, director's discretion provisions, and affirmative defenses that are functionally exemptions; and denied the petitions in part as to the SIP calls based on the enforcement discretion provisions and affirmative defenses against specific relief.

# Contingency Measures Policy

- EPA released a new draft Contingency Measure guidance for comment last year.
  - The guidance addresses both ozone and PM plans.
  - Available at: <https://www.epa.gov/air-quality-implementation-plans/draft-contingency-measures-guidance>
- Due to competing priorities EPA has not yet issued final guidance. The draft guidance continues to represent EPA's intent for future CM policy.
  - Air agencies developing CM submittals may consider the draft guidance and should consult with their Regional Office if there are clarifying questions.
  - We anticipate issuing a final guidance by this summer.
- Where appropriate, the EPA has begun proposing approval of CM SIPs using approaches in the draft guidance, including infeasibility justifications, and expects to continue this practice.
- Where necessary, EPA has also been disapproving CM submissions that rely on already-implemented measures per the 2021 D.C. Circuit decision in *Sierra Club*.
  - The first such disapproval for Texas ozone areas [88 FR 67957, October 3, 2023] and is being challenged by Texas in the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit.



## **2015 NAAQS Moderate Area Determinations of Attainment by the Attainment Date (“DAADs”)**

- Moderate area attainment date is August 3, 2024; statutory deadline for EPA to issue final DAADs is February 3, 2025.
- EPA regional offices will issue DAADs for their respective areas, including areas influenced by wildfire exceptional events.
- EPA headquarters will issue a separate Reclassification Requirements Rule in support of current and future DAADs to address SIP revision deadlines and “leftover” SIP requirements from prior classification.

## **Interstate Transport – Good Neighbor Plan**

- In the 10 states currently with requirements for electric generating units under the Good Neighbor Plan, nitrogen oxide emissions from power plants dropped 18% from 2022 levels in the 2023 ozone season.
- Emissions limits for industrial sources under the Good Neighbor Plan will begin in 2026.
- On February 16, 2024, EPA proposed to expand the Rule to five additional states, Arizona, Iowa, Kansas, New Mexico, and Tennessee. Comment period is open until May 16, 2024.
- On March 28, 2024, EPA responded to certain arguments in petitions to EPA to reconsider the Good Neighbor Plan.

## **2023 ozone air quality (preliminary thru 1/09/24)**

- 20 of 34 nonattainment areas are meeting the 2008 ozone NAAQS.
  - 2 of 4 maintenance areas not meeting standard (Chicago, Sheboygan)
- 8 of 46 nonattainment areas are meeting the 2015 ozone NAAQS.
  - 3 of 6 maintenance areas not meeting standard (Detroit, Door, Manitowoc)
- Monitors located in approximately 30 areas currently designated attainment in at least 15 states are violating the 2015 ozone NAAQS.
  - Mostly midwestern and western US states.
  - Some monitors have a longer-term violation trend but others are new.

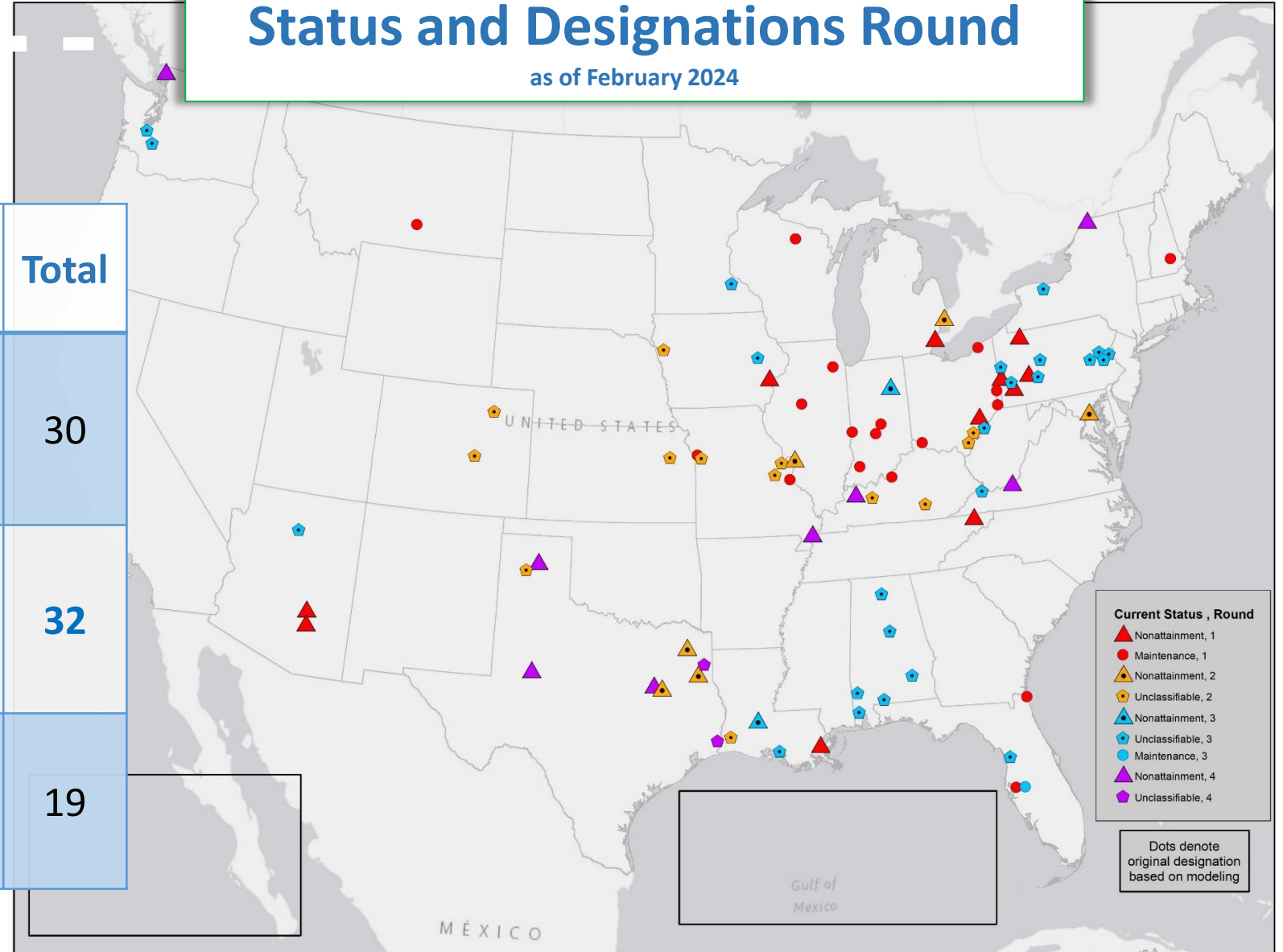
## **Recent redesignations to attainment**

- 2008 NAAQS: Chicago (IL, IN and WI portions)
- 2015 NAAQS: Atlanta, GA; Cincinnati, OH-KY; Detroit, MI; Door County-Revised, WI; Louisville (IN portion); Manitowoc County, WI
- 2015 NAAQS: reversal of El Paso County, TX nonattainment designation

# SO<sub>2</sub> Nonattainment Areas by Status and Designations Round

as of February 2024

	Rnd 1	Rnd 2	Rnd 3	Rnd 4	Total
Nonattainment	11	6	5	8	30
Unclassifiable	-	9	21	2	32
Maintenance	18	-	1	-	19



- Round 1 Nonattainment Areas
  - Revised attainment plans due in 2023 for Miami, AZ; Sullivan Co, TN; and St. Bernard Parish, LA. Revised attainment plan due in 2024 for Indiana, PA (under EPA review).
  - EPA pursuing redesignation to nonattainment for an area of Westmoreland & Cambria counties, PA adjacent to the existing Indiana, PA area (89 FR 9815, February 12, 2024). EPA currently reviewing comments received during comment period (closed 3/28/024).
- Round 2 Nonattainment Areas
  - All areas have either Clean Data Determination and/or approved attainment plan except Rusk/Panola Cos., TX. EPA subject to December 13, 2024, CD deadline for FIP/complete SIP for Rusk/Panola Cos., TX.
- Round 3 Nonattainment Areas
  - Sanctions and FIP deadline December 2, 2022, for Evangeline Parish, LA; Piti-Cabras, GU; and Huntington Co. IN.
- Round 4 Nonattainment Areas
  - Attainment plan submittals due October 30, 2022, for St. Lawrence Co., NY; Giles Co., VA; Henderson & Webster Counties, KY.
- SO<sub>2</sub> Interstate Transport SIPs
  - In September 2023, OCEF challenged EPA for inaction on several SIP actions, including SO<sub>2</sub> transport SIPs for TX and LA. EPA is negotiating a date for final action on these SIPs.

# Regional Haze Program Update

# Status of RH SIP Reviews

- EPA continues to review and act on 2<sup>nd</sup> Planning Period Regional Haze SIPs.
- Latest SIP action was a final approval for Maryland (88 FR 22337, 4/1/24).
- EPA issued Findings of Failure to Submit effective September 29, 2022, for 15 states (87 FR 52856); 12 remain outstanding.
- Failure to Act litigation continues for 33 states identified in a 2023 lawsuit.
  - On 3/29/24, EPA published a notice taking comment on a proposed consent decree of dates to take proposed action on 4 SIPs and final action on 33 SIPs. [89 FR 22141].
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Planning Period Progress Reports are due January 31, 2025. EPA plans to issue a memo addressing questions about report requirements in Spring 2024.

Regional Haze SIP Status *	
EPA Final Actions Published	3
Submitted SIPs Awaiting Final EPA Action	36
SIPs Outstanding	13

\*As of April 2024

# Regional Haze Rule Revisions

- EPA has opened a non-regulatory docket where interested parties can submit comments on the future of the Regional Haze program in advance of Third Planning Period rule revisions. [EPA-HQ-OAR-2023-0262]
- In addition to opening the docket, EPA held informational webinars on the Regional Haze program and future rule revisions on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The webinar materials can be found in the non-regulatory docket.
- Topics covered in the webinar presentation include:
  - Reasonable Progress
  - Four Factor Analysis
  - Long-Term Strategy
  - Future SIP Obligations
- Interested parties are welcome to submit written comments to the non-regulatory docket on these topics as well as topics not covered in the presentation.
  - Comments received after June 28, 2024, will be considered late and EPA may be unable to consider comments received after this date.

# State Plans Addressing Emissions Guidelines

Clean Air Act section 111(d) rules



# 111(d) State Plans – General Requirements

- “Adoption and Submittal of State Plans for Designated Facilities: Implementing Regulations Under Clean Air Act Section 111(d)”
  - aka 40 CFR part 60, subpart Ba; aka “General Provisions”
  - Published 80 FR 80480 (November 17, 2023)
- Amendments include:
  - revisions to the timing requirements for state plans (18-month default);
  - allowing for electronic submission of state plans (available thru SPeCS);
  - the addition of flexibility mechanisms such as trading and averaging; and
  - new requirements for meaningful engagement with the public.
- Also revises and clarifies Remaining Useful Life and Other Factors (RULOF) considerations for states in applying a standard of performance.

- Oil and Natural Gas Emissions Guidelines
  - “Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review.” Published 89 FR 16820 (March 8, 2024)
  - Emissions Guideline State Plans (EGSPs) due March 9, 2026
  - Federal Plan development work (tribal lands)
  - Compliance assistance documents coming soon: Small Entity Compliance Guide, Summary of Requirements for 111(d) State Plans
  - State equivalency issues
  - EPA cross-agency workgroup coordination
- Fossil Fuel-Fired EGUs (repeal/replace ACE rule)
  - Coming soon
  - Compliance assistance documents

# State Planning Milestones (Spring 2024)

Pollutant (Standard)	Final NAAQS Signature	Nonattainment Designations Effective	Infrastructure SIP Due	Attainment/EG Plans Due	Attainment Date/EG Compliance Date
Ozone (2015)	Oct 2015	Aug 3, 2018 **	Oct 2018	Aug 2021-2022, Jan 2023***, Jan 2026***	Aug 2021-2038
Ozone (2008)	Mar 2008	July 2012	Mar 2011	July 2015-2016 Jan 2017*, Aug 2020*	July 2015, 2018, 2021, 2027, 2032
SO <sub>2</sub> (2010) (primary)	June 2010	<sup>1</sup> Oct 2013, <sup>2</sup> Sept 2016, <sup>3</sup> Apr 2018, <sup>4</sup> Apr 2021	June 2013	<sup>1</sup> Apr 2015, <sup>2</sup> Mar 2018, <sup>3</sup> Oct 2019, <sup>4</sup> Oct 2022	<sup>1</sup> Oct 2018, <sup>2</sup> Sept 2021, <sup>3</sup> Apr 2023, <sup>4</sup> Apr 2026
PM <sub>2.5</sub> (2024 annual)	February 2024	Spring 2026	February 2027	Fall 2027	Spring 2032 (Moderate)
PM <sub>2.5</sub> (2012 annual)	Dec 2012	Apr 2015	Dec 2015	Oct 2016 (Moderate)	Dec 2021 (Moderate) Dec 2025 (Serious)
PM <sub>2.5</sub> (2006 24-hr)	Oct 2006	Dec 2009	Oct 2009	Dec 2014	Dec 2015 (Moderate) Dec 2019 (Serious) Dec 2024**
OOOoc Oil & Gas Emiss. Guideline	n/a	n/a	n/a	March 2026	March 2029
UUUUa EGU Emiss. Guideline	n/a	n/a	n/a	TBD	TBD

\*January 2017 for areas reclassified from Marginal to Moderate. August 2020 for areas reclassified from Moderate to Serious.

\*\*September 24, 2018 for San Antonio, TX

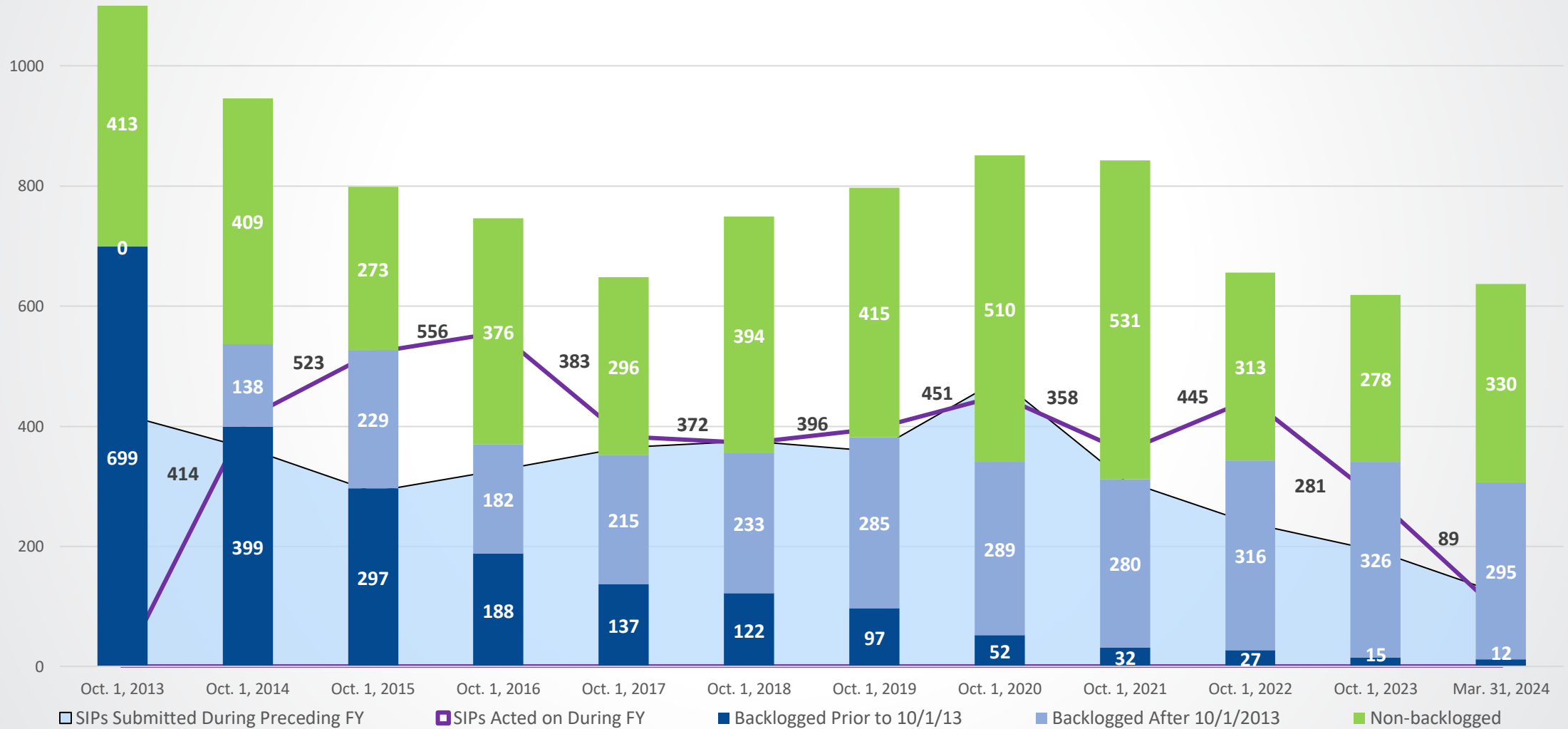
\*\*\* January 2023 for areas reclassified from Marginal to Moderate, January 2026 (proposed) for areas reclassified from Moderate to Serious.



# Questions and Comments



# Update to SIP Processing Chart through March 31, 2024

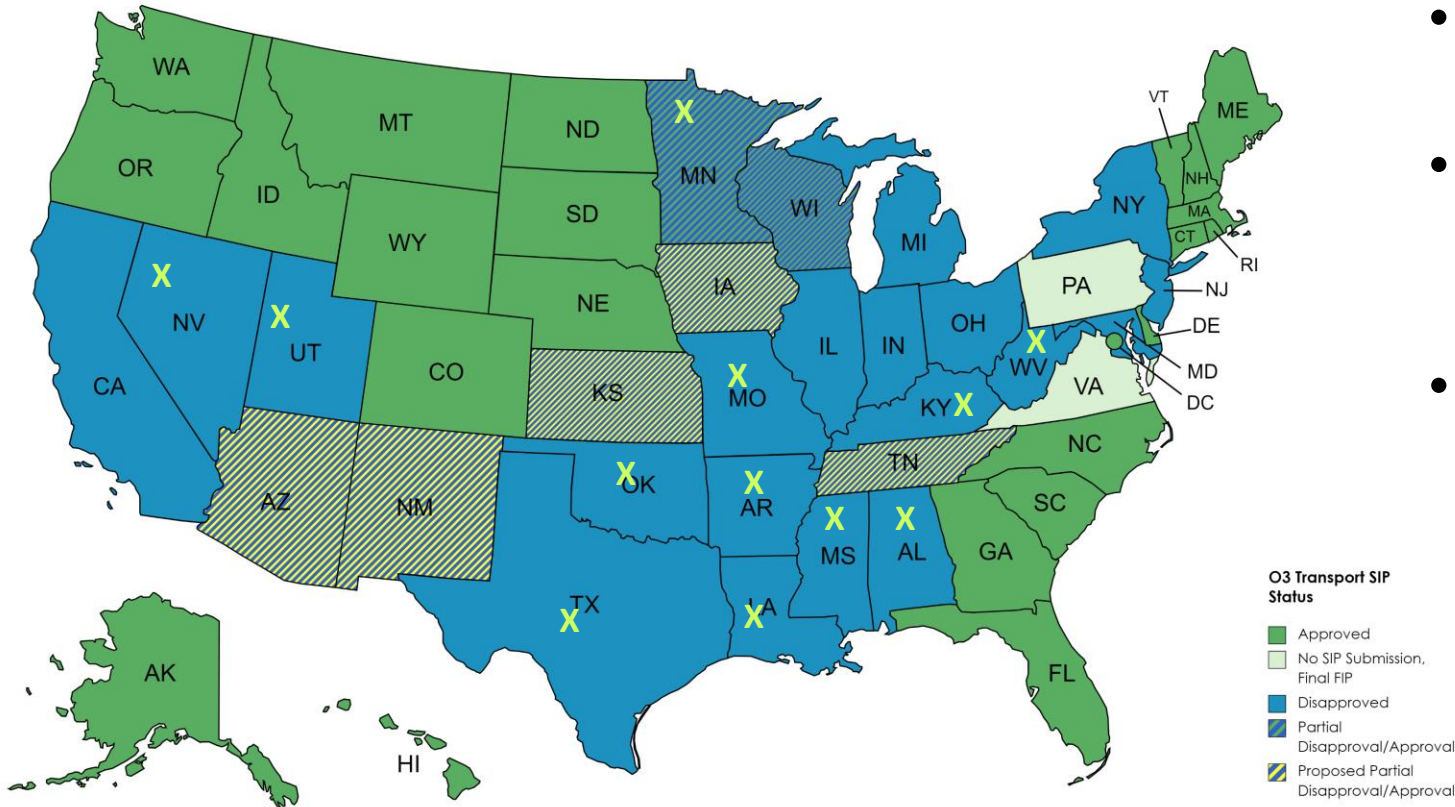


- Air Quality Planning curriculum intended for learners who implement the National Ambient Air Quality Standards via State / Tribal Implementation Plans
- AirKnowledge eLearning Modules at <https://airknowledge.gov>
  - [What are Area Designations?](#)
  - [Exceptional Events Demonstrations](#)
  - PLAN201-SI: [Applying Technical Factors for Area Designations](#)
    - Area Designations Process and Timeline
    - Area Designations Factor Analysis

- Data Visualization and Comparison Tools
  - To help air agencies identify event-influenced PM<sub>2.5</sub> and Ozone data most likely to have regulatory significance.
- PM<sub>2.5</sub> Wildland Fire Exceptional Events Tiering Document
  - Information on tiering wildland fire/PM events (similar to the tiering approach used for wildfire/ozone events) to help “right-size” demonstrations.
- Wildland Prescribed Fire Demonstration Document
  - EPA collaborated with the State of California, the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District, Placer County Air Pollution Control District and the US Forest Service to develop an exceptional events demonstration for a prescribed fire on wildland that influenced PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations.

# 2015 Ozone Transport SIP Status (as of 4/4/2024)

**X** = stay of EPA SIP disapproval (as of 9.13.23)



- Final action taken on 46 of 49 submitted ozone transport SIPs.
- Proposed partial disapproval/ approval action on AZ, IA, KS, NM, TN (89 FR 12666, 2/16/24)
- Litigation:
  - Settlement deadline to take final action on AZ, NM, and TN by August 30, 2024.
  - Disapprovals stayed for 12 states.



# Ozone Good Neighbor Plan FIP

- Federal plan ensures states eliminate their significant contribution to nonattainment or interference with maintenance of the 2015 ozone NAAQS in downwind states (88 FR 36654, 6/5/23). Effective date 8/4/2023.
  - Establishes Federal NO<sub>x</sub> emissions reduction requirements for sources in 23 states.
  - Electric Generating Unit (EGU) requirements in 22 states starting in 2023 ozone season (12 states stayed).
  - Industrial source (non-EGU) requirements in 20 states by 2026 ozone season (10 states stayed).
  - Stay orders on SIP disapproval actions has resulted in EPA issuing stay of the effective date of GNP FIP for 12 states (interim final rules: 88 FR 49295 7/31/23; 88 FR 67102 9/29/23).
- Compliance for Non-EGUs.
  - Initial Notifications for 3 industrial source groups due December 4, 2023
  - Iron and Steel Work Plans due August 5, 2024
  - Case-by-Case Emissions Limit Requests due August 5, 2024
  - See [Non-EGU GNP Implementation webpage](#) for implementation tools and resources.

## **2008 NAAQS SIP Status Update**

- No overdue SIP submittals for previously reclassified Serious areas.
- SIP revisions for reclassified Severe areas are in progress (due May 7, 2024).

## **2015 NAAQS SIP Status Update**

- For all initial SIP revisions due through August 3, 2022:
  - 19 areas with approx. 75 SIP elements in total overdue (as of March 19, 2024).
  - Includes nonattainment NSR SIPs/certifications for 15 areas covering 18 NNSR elements.
- SIP revisions for reclassified Moderate areas were due January 1, 2023.
  - EPA issued Findings of Failure to Submit effective November 17, 2023, for Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New Jersey, Nevada, Texas, and Wisconsin. (88 FR 71757)
  - The findings trigger deadlines for imposition of offset and highway funding sanctions starting in May 2025 and, if needed, for EPA to promulgate a FIP (November 2025).

- A collaborative multi-pollutant program for states, tribes, and local governments to avoid nonattainment and achieve ongoing emission reductions in areas designated as attainment or maintenance for ozone and/or PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS.
- Currently **51 partner areas** covering more than 50 million population. Partners include states, tribal nations, cities, counties, councils of government, regional planning commissions.

### **Focus**

- Currently working with areas to proactively reduce PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions.

### **Goals**

- Leverage programs and planning to address air quality, climate, and environmental justice objectives;
- Help meet the environmental, health, economic development, and quality of life goals in the participating area.

### **Benefits of partnership**

- Avoid the costs of nonattainment designation for ozone or PM<sub>2.5</sub> while collaborating with local stakeholders
- Implement ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> programs that also support climate goals and address concerns of EJ communities
- Obtain technical assistance from multiple EPA offices and other agencies like DOE and DOT
- Attend monthly meetings with partners sharing best practices and EPA training on programs and tools
- Receive monthly newsletter on grants and training opportunities