

Executive Summary

The New Orleans Ozone Maintenance Area¹, which includes the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard and St. Charles, was designated under section 107 of the 1977 Clean Air Act as nonattainment for the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone on September 11, 1978.

Following the federal Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) of 1990, the New Orleans Ozone Maintenance Area was classified as a “transitional” ozone nonattainment area pursuant to sections 107(d) and 181(a) of the CAAA (56 FR 56694). Following the collection of the required ambient ozone air monitoring data needed for redesignation of the New Orleans Ozone Maintenance Area, an ozone maintenance plan was developed in accordance with section 175A of the CAAA. On October 15, 1994, a redesignation request and an ozone maintenance plan were submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA redesignated the New Orleans Ozone Maintenance Area to attainment for the one-hour ozone standard and approved the ozone maintenance plan effective December 1, 1995. (60 FR 51354)

On April 15, 2004, EPA designated and classified areas for the 8-hour ozone NAAQS of 0.08 parts per million (ppm) (69 FR 23858, April 30, 2004). For most areas these designations became effective June 15, 2004. EPA designated the New Orleans Ozone Maintenance Area as attainment/unclassifiable for the 8-hour ozone standard effective June 15, 2004.

Section 110(a)(1) of the CAAA requires that each state adopt and submit to EPA a plan which provides for implementation, maintenance and enforcement of the primary pollutant standard following the promulgation of a NAAQS for any air pollutant. States must submit Section 110(a)(1)

¹ The New Orleans CMSA at the time of the 1994 maintenance plan submission was comprised of six parishes: Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist and St. Tammany. Maintenance and contingency plans were not included in the action for the parishes St. John the Baptist and St. Tammany. St. John the Baptist Parish was previously redesignated to attainment and St. Tammany Parish was never designated as nonattainment.

maintenance plans no later than three (3) years after the effective date of the area's 8-hour ozone NAAQS designation. The Section 110(a)(1) 8-hour ozone maintenance plan for the New Orleans Ozone Maintenance Area must be submitted no later than June 15, 2007.

On May 20, 2005, EPA issued "*Maintenance Plan Guidance Document for Certain 8-hour Ozone Areas Under Section 110(a)(1) of the Clean Air Act*". The guidance specifies that states include the following components in the maintenance plan:

- Attainment inventory;
- Maintenance demonstration;
- Ambient air quality monitoring;
- Verification of continued attainment; and
- Contingency plan.

With the submittal of this ozone maintenance plan for the New Orleans Ozone Maintenance Area which is a revision to the Louisiana State Implementation Plan (SIP), the state is fulfilling the requirements of Section 110(a)(1) under the 8-hour ozone standard.

This plan is based on the 2002 emissions inventory which was collected before the devastation to the area by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. The population of the area has decreased by approximately 50% and the area is in the process of rebuilding.