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# 2008 Ozone Nonattainment Boundary Designation Process - Frequently Asked Questions

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## **Why are monitors placed where they are and how does my county get recommended as nonattainment if it does not contain a monitor?**

The department selects the locations for the ozone monitors based on sites where ozone formation could be at the highest levels. The department looks to identify areas with potential air pollution problems. Ozone is a secondary pollutant and needs time to form. Therefore, the department places monitors approximately 10 to 15 miles downwind of emission source areas to provide an accurate picture of maximum ozone levels with respect to that area. Air quality staff evaluates wind data to determine the predominant wind directions for each area to identify the best location for the maximum concentration site. It is important to note there are two ways for a county to be designated nonattainment under the federal Clean Air Act. The first is to have a representative monitor in violation of the air quality standard. The second is to have sufficient emission sources to contribute to a nearby violating monitor.

## **Is the department considering the views and comments of stakeholders during this process?**

The department is considering all views and comments received during this process and share many of the concerns that have been submitted. Comments submitted will be presented to the Missouri Air Conservation Commission and discussed at the adoption recommendation. Final responses will be posted to the department's Web site at [www.dnr.mo.gov/env/apcp/ozone.htm](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/apcp/ozone.htm).

The evaluation of counties under the new ozone standard must be completed by March 2009, at which time the state will forward its recommendation to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on which counties should be designated nonattainment. The EPA will make the final determination of the nonattainment area boundaries.

## **What are the consequences of being designated a nonattainment area?**

EPA is still working on the implementation rule that will help the department determine what each area may have to do to reduce emissions. The department understands the responsibility of local governments to protect jobs and economic growth. The state will undertake any discussion of controls for each area with an eye not only toward the environment, but toward economic viability for that area. It is first and foremost the responsibility of the Department of Natural Resources to protect air quality for all Missourians while encouraging economic development of the state.

The department believes the Clean Air Act did not completely anticipate such a tightened ozone standard when it was written. The department has requested EPA consider national strategies to

address ozone as local controls are no longer as effective when ozone transport is taken into consideration. Once EPA publishes the implementation rule, the department will perform a thorough review and, with input from the community, consider only the controls that make sense for each area. Each control decision will be evaluated to understand the viability of each possible control, the air quality impact, and the cost to the affected community or industry. The designation process is not designed to evaluate controls. The consideration of what controls are appropriate is the next step after designations and the department will proceed with an inclusive stakeholder effort for each affected area.

### **For More Information**

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