

Public Notice
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Redesignation and Maintenance Plan for the Ohio Portion of the Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN 1997 Annual PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Area

Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren Counties

Notice is hereby given that the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, (Ohio EPA) is requesting that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) revise the current air quality designation for the Ohio portion of the Cincinnati-Hamilton area, including Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren counties to attainment with respect to the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS).

U.S. EPA previously approved a redesignation request for the Ohio portion of the Cincinnati-Hamilton area from nonattainment to attainment for the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS. U.S. EPA also approved Ohio's 1997 annual PM_{2.5} maintenance plan for the Cincinnati-Hamilton area as revisions to the State Implementation Plan (SIP), approved the 2005 emissions inventories for primary PM_{2.5}, NO_x, and SO₂, and approved the PM_{2.5} Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets for 2015 and 2021 for the Cincinnati-Hamilton area [76 FR 80253].

On March 18, 2015, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit vacated the previous redesignation of the Ohio and Indiana portions of the Cincinnati-Hamilton area. The Sixth Circuit found that U.S. EPA erred when it approved the redesignations because Ohio and Indiana's SIPs did not provide for reasonably available control measures, including reasonably available control technologies (RACT/RACM) as required by 42 USC 7502(c)(1). The maintenance plan, emissions inventories and Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets remain approved per U.S. EPA's action on December 23, 2011 [76 FR 80253].

Ohio has revised the redesignation request and updated the maintenance plan for this area to reflect the provisions of Subpart 4 (Title I, Part D) of the Clean Air Act, including RACT/RACM analysis and updated emissions inventories to include VOCs and ammonia.

Air quality monitoring data collected between 2013 and 2015 in the region demonstrate continued attainment of the NAAQS and there is evidence that the improved air quality is due to permanent, enforceable emission reductions. In addition, existing requirements continue to be sufficient to maintain the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} standard in this area at least ten years into the future.

Projected emissions and computer models show that existing state and federal emission reduction requirements are sufficient to attain and maintain the NAAQS in the Cincinnati-Hamilton area. Therefore, Ohio EPA's previously approved maintenance plan utilized existing emission inventory information and projections of future emissions

as the demonstration of the ability to maintain the NAAQS in the Cincinnati-Hamilton area in the future.

The Cincinnati-Hamilton area is currently designated as nonattainment for the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} standard. As part of an acceptable maintenance plan, Ohio EPA is required to develop a contingency plan to provide for additional emission reductions if a violation of the NAAQS is monitored after the area has been redesignated. The plan which was previously approved by U.S. EPA contains reductions which will help alleviate the ambient problem until a revised SIP can be developed.

The State of Ohio proposes to:

1. Request the U.S. EPA redesignate the Cincinnati-Hamilton area to attainment with respect to the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS and update the maintenance plan relative to the Subpart 4 requirements. This request will document that existing enforceable control measures are responsible for the observed improvement in air quality.
2. Request the U.S. EPA approve the Cincinnati-Hamilton area RACT/RACM analysis.

These actions must be noticed to allow public comment and to satisfy U.S. EPA requirements for public involvement in SIP related activities. This notice addresses Ohio EPA's reliance on the emission projections as evidence of attainment and maintenance and the commitment to institute contingency measures if ambient exceedances or violations trigger the contingency plan requirements. Written comments will be received on or before July 6, 2016 at the following address:

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Lazarus Government Center
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Pursuant to Section 119.03 of the Ohio Revised Code, a public hearing on this redesignation request will be conducted as follows: July 6, 2016 at 3:30 P.M., at Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services located at 250 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio.

All interested persons are entitled to attend or be represented at the hearings and give written or oral comments on these changes. All oral comments presented at the

hearing, and all written statements submitted at the hearing or to the above address by the close of business on July 6, 2016 will be considered by Ohio EPA prior to final action on this redesignation. Written statements submitted after July 6, 2016 may be considered as time and circumstances permit, but will not be part of the official record of the hearing.

This redesignation and maintenance request is available on Ohio EPA DAPC's Web page for electronic downloading. The URL is: <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/SIP/annual.aspx>. Questions regarding accessing the web site should be directed to Paul Braun at 614-644-3734; other questions or comments about this document should be directed to either Holly Kaloz at (614)-644-3632, Holly.Kaloz@epa.ohio.gov or Jennifer Van Vlerah at (614) 644-3696, Jennifer.VanVlerah@epa.ohio.gov or mailed to Holly Kaloz or Jennifer Van Vlerah at the above address.