

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
December 1, 2023

Plain Language Summary of the Ozone Attainment Plan for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) Area

Introduction

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the maximum level of ozone in the air to protect human health (75 parts per billion for the 2008 ozone standard). Eight counties in the HGB area (Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties) do not meet the EPA's 2008 standard for ozone and are classified as a severe nonattainment area under that standard. Texas must develop a plan, known as a state implementation plan or SIP, to reduce ozone in this area to meet the standard by the EPA's deadline of July 20, 2027.

Summary

The proposed attainment plan for the HGB area includes a photochemical modeling analysis and a weight-of-evidence analysis that evaluate the attainment status of the area (Project No. 2023-110-SIP-NR). The proposed attainment plan also includes an analysis of possible reasonably available control measures and reasonably available control technology. The proposed attainment plan also includes motor vehicle emissions budgets for the 2026 attainment year. An included contingency plan will provide additional emissions reductions if the area fails to meet the 2008 ozone standard.

Public Comment and Hearing Information

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will offer a public hearing in Houston on January 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Houston-Galveston Area Council, 3555 Timmons Lane, #100, Houston, Texas 77027. This hearing is offered to receive public comments on the proposed attainment plan for the HGB area (Project No. 2023-110-SIP-NR). The hearing is also offered to receive public comments on three other proposals that would impact the HGB area. One is a proposed reasonable further progress plan for the HGB area (Project No. 2023-108-SIP-NR) and the others are proposed rulemakings relating to air pollutant control strategies (Project Nos. 2023-116-115-AI and 2023-117-117-AI). The hearing will be conducted in English, and Spanish language interpretation services will be made available. For accommodation needs, contact Jamie Zech, Air Quality Division at (512) 239-3935 or 1-800-RELAY-TX (TDD) as far in advance as possible.

The comment period for this project opens on December 1, 2023 and closes on January 16, 2024. Submit written comments through the *TCEQ Public Comments* system at <https://tceq.commentinput.com/>. Comments for the proposed attainment plan must reference **SIP Project No. 2023-110-SIP-NR**.

The proposed attainment plan documents can be found on the TCEQ's website at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/siplans.html#prosips> and the proposed rulemaking documents can be found at https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/propose_adopt.html.

For more information about the proposals or to get help with submitting written comments, contact Vanessa T. De Arman, SIP Project Manager, 512-239-5609 or vanessa.dearman@tceq.texas.gov.