

Ozone Attainment for Eight SE Michigan Counties

On June 29, 2009, the Federal Register published the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) redesignation of eight Southeast Michigan counties to attainment with the 1997 ozone national ambient air quality standard of 84 parts per billion. Counties included in this action are Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne.

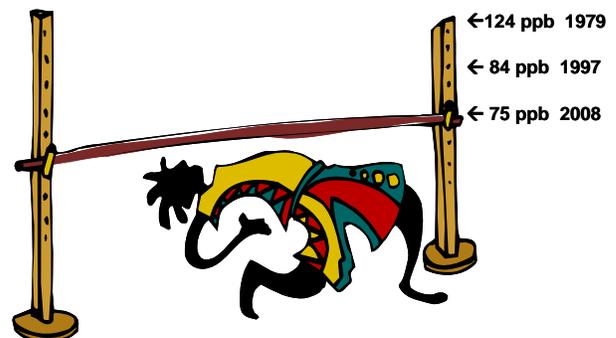
In addition to providing ozone data showing air monitors in these counties meet the ozone NAAQS standard [based on the 3-year period from 2006-2008], an enormous amount of federally mandated documentation was required. DEQ Air Quality staff prepared emissions inventories, qualified monitoring data, and provided demonstrations of compliance with the Clean Air Act required program elements. Furthermore, a maintenance plan was developed to ensure that ground-level ozone levels remain low. The DEQ worked closely with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) to establish permanent air improvements and motor vehicle emissions budgets.

The change in designation status removes a disincentive for economic growth which will allow SE Michigan to develop new industries while maintaining clean air. Federal requirements are more restrictive for industries located in nonattainment areas and as a result make siting a new manufacturing facility, or expanding an existing one difficult.

Monday's action leaves Allegan County [in West Michigan] the only county in nonattainment with the 1997 ozone standard. This is due to overwhelming transport of air emissions that originate upwind outside of Michigan. It is anticipated that air improvements across the Midwest region will result in compliance for that area in the next few years.

The 2008 Ozone Standard

It should be noted that attainment designations for the 2008 ozone standard of 75 parts per billion have not been established. Preliminary data indicate that areas of Michigan do not yet meet this more stringent standard.



See the current NAAQS [Attainment Status Map](#)

For the AQI, real-time data and other information on air quality where you live, select the [MIair](#) icon on the DEQ "AIR" webpage.