

Atlanta, Georgia Early Progress Plan for 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area
Effective Date: 04/21/08 (73 FR 9206)

Background of the Plan: Ground level ozone is not emitted directly by sources but rather is formed by the combination of ozone precursors (Nitrogen Oxides, NO_x, and Volatile Organic Compounds, VOCs) and sunlight. The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires that the EPA define Nonattainment Areas for ambient air quality and implement plans to reach National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Specifically, these nonattainment areas must develop a CAA section 175A maintenance plan for a NAAQS, such as ozone, affected by emissions from motor vehicles. On April 30, 2004, EPA designated the 20 county (Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Newton, Paulding, Rockdale, Spalding and Walton counties) Atlanta 8-Hour Ozone Area as a “marginal” nonattainment area (see, 69 FR 23857, April 30, 2004). 13 of these counties (Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding, and Rockdale counties) were designated nonattainment for the 1-hour ozone standard and have established 1-hour Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets (MVEBs) for NO_x and VOC established on the Georgia State Implementation Plan (SIP). The transportation partners in the Atlanta area used the 1-hour MVEBs in the thirteen 1-hour ozone nonattainment counties to demonstrate transportation conformity (as defined by the transportation conformity rule at 40 CFR 93.109 (e) (2) (iii)) and the 2002 baseline test to apply this rule in the remaining seven counties. On December 31, 2006, the State of Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) submitted a voluntary SIP revision requesting a voluntary Early Progress Plan for the sole purpose of establishing MVEBs for the entire Atlanta 8-hour Ozone nonattainment area.

Summary of the Plan: On January 16, 2007, EPA received a request to approve the Early Progress Plan for the Atlanta 8-hour ozone area for the sole purpose of establishing 8-hour ozone MVEBs for the entire 20-county 8-hour ozone nonattainment area. EPA’s evaluation indicates that Georgia has demonstrated that the MVEBs in the Early Progress Plan are consistent with a demonstration that shows some progress towards attainment of the 8-hour ozone standard. This approval of the Early Progress Plan does not, however, satisfy the requirement for the State of Georgia to provide a full 8-hour ozone attainment demonstration rate-of-progress plan, when the SIP revisions become required for the Atlanta 8-Hour Ozone Area.

Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets (MVEB): The established MVEB for the entire 20-county Atlanta 8-hour ozone nonattainment area for 2006 VOC is 172.27 tons per day and 2006 NO_x is 306.75 tons per day. In a previous action,

Emissions Reductions: EPA believes that Georgia demonstrated a significant air quality improvement in the Atlanta 8-hour Ozone nonattainment area due to implementation of the MVEBs in all twenty counties. From 2002 to 2005, these MVEBs have resulted in a 16% reduction of VOCs and an 18% reduction of NO_x.

Federal Register: (73 FR 9206, 02/20/08); Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans for Air Quality Purposes; Georgia: Early Progress Plan for the Atlanta 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area; Direct Final Rule

(73 FR 9260, 02/20/2008); Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans for Air Quality Purposes; Georgia: Early Progress Plan for the Atlanta 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area; Final Rule

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