

Macon, Georgia 8-Hour Ozone Redesignation
Effective Redesignation Date: 09/19/07 (72 FR 53432)

Background of the Plan: On July 18, 1997, EPA promulgated a revised 8-hour ozone standard of 0.08 parts per million (ppm). The new standard was more stringent than the previous 1-hour ozone standard. Under EPA regulations at 40 CFR part 50, the 8-hour ozone standard is attained when the 3-year average of the annual fourth highest daily maximum 8-hour average ambient air quality ozone concentrations is less than or equal to 0.08 ppm (i.e., 0.084 ppm when rounding is considered). (See, 69 FR 23857 (April 30, 2004) for further information.) The Clean Air Act (CAA) required EPA to designate as nonattainment any area that was violating the 1997 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) based on the three most recent years of ambient air quality data. The Macon 8-hour ozone nonattainment area was designated using 2001-2003 ambient air quality data. On April 30, 2004, EPA designated the Macon Area as a “basic” 8-hour ozone nonattainment area (see, 69 FR 23857, April 30, 2004). On June 15, 2007, the state of Georgia, through the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD), submitted a request to redesignate Macon, Georgia to attainment for the 1997 8-hour ozone standard, and for EPA approval of the Georgia State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision containing a maintenance plan for the Macon Area. Macon was classified under subpart 1 of the CAA, and was obligated to meet only the subpart 1 requirements. The redesignation request included three years of complete, quality-assured ambient air quality data for the ozone seasons (March 1st until October 31st) of 2003-2005, indicating that the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS had been achieved for the Macon Area.

Summary of the Plan: On September 19, 2007, EPA approved the SIP submitted by the State of Georgia, through the GA EPD for the purpose of redesignating Macon, Georgia, from nonattainment to attainment status for the NAAQS for 1997 8-hour ozone. The maintenance plan was submitted by the State to satisfy the federal requirements necessary to redesignate an area from nonattainment to attainment. The maintenance plan is designed to help keep the Macon Area in attainment for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS through 2020.

Contingency Measures: The maintenance plan includes contingency measures to remedy future violations of the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS. If there is a measured violation of the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS in the Macon Area, contingency measures would be adopted and implemented as expeditiously as possible, but no later than eighteen to twenty four months after the triggering event. Georgia would consider one or more of the following contingency measures to re-attain the standard: reasonable available control measures (RACM) for all sources of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), reasonable available control technology (RACT) for all existing point sources of NO_x, expansion of RACT/RACM to areas of transport within the State, mobile source measures, and additional NO_x reduction measures yet to be identified.

Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets (MVEB): The applicable MVEB for the total area of Macon for volatile organic compounds (VOC) in 2020 is 7.8744 tons/day. The applicable MVEB for the total area of Macon for NO_x in 2020 is 14.7712 tons/day.

Emissions Reductions: EPA believes Georgia demonstrated that the observed air quality improvement in the Macon Area is due to permanent and enforceable reductions in emissions resulting from implementation of the SIP, Federal measures, and other State adopted measures. Additionally, the following new emissions control programs for fuels and motor vehicles will help to ensure a continued decrease in emissions: Onboard Refueling Vapor Recovery for Light- Duty Vehicles, Architectural and Industrial Maintenance Coatings, Automobile Refinishing, The National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; the majority of which are also VOC, Phase II Acid Rain Program for NOx, Tier 2 Motor Vehicle Emissions Standards and Gasoline Sulfur Control Requirements, and Regional NOx SIP Call.

Federal Register: (72 FR 53432, 09/19/07), Redesignation of Macon, Georgia, 1997 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment

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