



OAQPS

Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

# Ozone Advance



# What do we want to do?

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- ▶ Work with areas designated attainment
- ▶ Create an opportunity to make progress and reduce emissions for areas to remain in attainment in the future
- ▶ Re-issue existing Ozone Flex guidance
  - ▶ Expanded participation
  - ▶ Streamlined program elements
  - ▶ Release revised memo and guidance in spring 2012



# Why Should Near-Nonattainment Areas Be Interested in Doing Something to Reduce Ozone?

- ▶ Ensure continued health protection
- ▶ Less resource intensive to put measures in place now than to deal with nonattainment requirements
- ▶ Proactive
  - ▶ Could better position some areas to avoid a nonattainment designation after 2014 review
  - ▶ If eventually designated, could result in a lower classification
- ▶ EPA may consider as a factor in deciding whether to redesignate areas not violating in 2008-2010 but violating in 2011 to nonattainment
- ▶ Program framework and opportunity to collaborate with EPA
- ▶ Multipollutant co-benefits
- ▶ Increased public awareness; stakeholder group formation



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- ▶ EPA works with interested attainment areas to get ozone reduction measures in place quickly
- ▶ Program provides a framework for local actions to maintain/improve air quality
- ▶ Reductions may result in an area avoiding nonattainment or a higher classification
- ▶ Program does NOT establish any new requirements and it does NOT defer/avoid any existing requirements

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- ▶ Emissions inventory development/refinement and modeling are encouraged but not required
- ▶ Generally commitments are for a five-year term, with option to renew
- ▶ Similar 1-Hour Ozone Flex program offered in 2001; 8-Hour program offered in 2006



# Experience With Ozone Flex

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## ▶ Who participated?

### ▶ **1 hour program (2001)-5 areas**

Corpus Christi, TX

Tulsa, OK

Shreveport-Bossier City, LA

Austin-San Marcos, TX

Little Rock, AR

### ▶ **8 hour program (2006)-4 areas**

Corpus Christi, TX

Oklahoma City

Austin-Round Rock, TX

Tulsa, OK

## ▶ What did they achieve?

▶ All areas stayed in attainment (1997 standard)

▶ 8 hour areas are still active today

▶ Implemented a variety of measures such as commuting programs, ozone action day programs, low VOC roadway materials, alternative fuels for non-aircraft vehicles, diesel idling and retrofit programs

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# Next Steps

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- ▶ Draft guidance is currently under review within EPA-- completion expected by early to mid-February
- ▶ Anticipate sending the guidance to external reviewers (states, local governments, tribes, interest groups, etc.) in mid-February
- ▶ Program will begin as soon as external review comments have been incorporated (as soon as late February)