

EPA Updates:

On February 18, 2011 (next Friday), the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) will convene for a teleconference to respond to questions submitted by EPA on the Reconsideration of the 2008 Ozone Standard. The call takes place from 1 – 5 pm, eastern time. The agenda for the call and background information, including the questions EPA submitted for the Panel to answer, are available on the internet at www.epa.gov/groundlevelozone. The Announcements box on the right side of the screen/page has a January 26, 2011 announcement – click on that link (on the “Learn More”) to get to the CASAC Ozone Review info.

On January 28, 2011, EPA proposed to retain the existing National Ambient Air Quality Standard for carbon monoxide (CO). EPA is proposing changes to the ambient air monitoring requirements for CO. The proposed requirements are expected to result in approximately 77 CO monitors operating near highly trafficked roads within 53 urban areas as part of the overall CO monitoring network. These areas include the Austin and San Antonio areas. There will be a 60-day comment period, beginning on the day the rule is published in the Federal Register. For the proposed rule, fact sheet, map and list of potential monitoring areas, go to <http://www.epa.gov/airquality/carbonmonoxide/>

We are expecting a proposed rule to address the conclusions of our review of the PM Standard this Spring.

We are expecting a proposed rule to address the conclusions of our review of the NO₂/SO₂ Secondary Standard by July 12, 2011.

We are on track to meet the July 2011 date to finalize our reconsideration of the 2008 Ozone Standard. We are still expecting the Implementation Rule to be proposed ahead of the final rule and hope to have the proposal date for you soon.

On December 30, 2010, EPA published two Federal Register notices on regulating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Texas:

In one notice we issued an interim final rule partially disapproving the Texas’s Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program because it does not allow for regulation of GHGs. We also promulgated a federal implementation plan making EPA the GHG PSD permitting authority in Texas. The interim final rule will expire on April 30, 2011.

In the other notice we proposed this same action for public comment. The comment period has been extended to February 14, 2011. These notices can be found at the www.regulations.gov internet site (Docket number EPA-OAR-2010-1033). More information can be found on the epa.gov/region6 website (page down through the different articles).