

On September 22, 2011, U.S. EPA released a memo outlining their plans for implementing the 75 parts per billion (ppb) ozone standard. EPA determines compliance with the ozone standard based on a region's design value (a three-year rolling average). The design value must be 75 ppb or lower to comply with the standard.

EPA intends to make initial nonattainment designations by mid-2012, using design values based on the most current, certified ozone monitoring data: 2008-2010. Our region's design value for those years is 74 ppb; we are **not** on the preliminary list of areas EPA is considering for nonattainment.

The 2011 ozone season was bad throughout Texas. **Our region was one high-ozone day away from monitoring a 2009-2011 design value that would violate the standard.** Additionally, the monitor readings at Dripping Springs and San Marcos indicated unexpectedly high ozone levels in Hays County this year. Typically, we observe the highest readings in northwest Austin.

The region is still in a precarious position regarding attainment status and clean air for our residents. We know voluntary efforts to improve air quality can be successful. Our proactive approach to protecting air quality has paid off. The region's voluntary emission reduction plans, developed and implemented in coordination with TCEQ and EPA, worked. We remained in compliance despite a meteorologically difficult season.

The 2012 ozone season begins an important next phase in our air quality stewardship. The region must renew its clean air efforts in order to keep ozone levels low, stay in attainment, and avoid the burdens of a nonattainment designation. We ask you to join this vital regional initiative by initiating, reaffirming or expanding your commitments to implement ozone-reducing measures beginning with the 2012 ozone season. Together, we can make a positive difference in the region's air quality.

We have staff available if you would like additional information or assistance. Please contact Bill Gill at bgill@capcog.org, 512-916-6066 or Cathy Stephens cathy.stephens@campotexas.org, 512-974-1861 at your convenience. Thank you for your consideration of, and action on, this important regional initiative.