

Monthly Report from CDPHE to the North Front Range Transportation and Air Quality Planning Council

December 2016

The Air Quality Control Commission:

- The Air Commission adopted revisions to the ozone state implementation plan (SIP) on November 17.
 - The SIP includes photochemical modeling that projects the Denver Metro and North Front Range area will meet the 75 ppb ozone standard in 2017 with very little cushion. Attainment is based on three-year average concentrations and the region must meet the standard for 2017, 2018, and 2019 to be redesignated as an attainment/maintenance area.
 - The SIP also includes a demonstration of reasonable further progress, transportation conformity budgets, contingency measures, and other required elements. The Commission incorporated certain state-only regulations into the SIP. No new emission control requirements were adopted.
- The Commission will consider the conformity determination for the NFRMPO's 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Amendment on December 15, 2016.

The Air Pollution Control Division:

- Raw ozone monitoring data for January - October 2016 indicates that seven monitors in the Denver Metro/North Front Range nonattainment area recorded 4th-maximum values above 70 ppb, with four monitors above 75 ppb. The NREL monitoring site had the highest 4th-maximum value at 83 ppb. Within the NFR MPO area, the Fort Collins West site had the highest 4th-maximum value at 76 ppb.
- Ozone attainment is based on three year average concentrations. For 2014 - 2016, five monitors fail to attain the 70 ppb standard and three of these monitors fail to attain the 75 ppb standard.
- The Division continues to evaluate whether monitored data within the NFR MPO area may have been influenced by exceptional events (wildfires or

stratospheric ozone) on nine days in 2016. However, excluding the data from these nine days would not bring any monitoring site into attainment.

- The Division and the Regional Air Quality Council have already begun to explore additional emission reductions necessary to assure attainment of the old 75 ppb ozone standard and the new 70 ppb standard.
- On November 17, 2016, EPA published its proposed implementation rule for the 2015 ozone standard of 70 ppb. Among other things, EPA proposed two alternative approaches for revoking the 2008 ozone standard. One approach would revoke the 2008 standard at essentially the same time for all areas of the country. Under the second approach, the 2008 standard would continue to apply in any area designated nonattainment for the 2008 standard until that area is redesignated to attainment/maintenance. Under the second approach, Colorado would be subject to both the 75 ppb and 70 ppb standards at once and would need to conduct parallel ozone planning efforts for each standard. The Division expects to submit comments on the administrative burdens of this approach. Comments are due to EPA January 17, 2017.
- In response to EPA's publication of "Control Techniques Guidelines" for the oil and natural gas industry, Colorado must adopt oil and gas Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) requirements as a SIP revision in 2017, for submittal to EPA in 2018. The Division will commence a stakeholder process with interested parties in early 2017.
- The Division will brief the Council on the Volkswagen and Audi settlement on December 1.

