



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27711

APR 4 2012

OFFICE OF
AIR QUALITY PLANNING
AND STANDARDS

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Ozone Advance - Supporting Proactive Local Efforts to Keep Communities' Air Clean

FROM: Stephen D. Page, Director
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

TO: Regional Air Division Directors, Regions I-X

I am pleased to announce the Ozone Advance program, which continues and expands the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) cooperative work with state, tribal, and local governments. Ozone Advance is a collaborative effort to encourage ozone attainment areas nationwide to reduce ozone emissions expeditiously so they can continue to meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone. Through Ozone Advance, we are encouraging states, tribes, and local governments to take near-term steps to improve air quality and ensure continued health protection over the long term. Actions undertaken as part of the program could result in air quality improvements that provide a buffer against future violations of the standard. Ozone Advance will encourage the use of local strategies to reduce ground-level ozone and will emphasize coordination with stakeholders.

Ozone Advance is similar to the 2001 (for the 1-hour NAAQS) and 2006 (for the 8-hour 1997 NAAQS) Ozone Flex programs. Similar to those programs, Ozone Advance provides a framework for local actions to reduce ozone precursors in attainment and maintenance areas and thus maintain the ozone NAAQS. It also provides a means for local governments to take the initiative in maintaining and improving their air quality. Ozone Advance and Ozone Flex differ slightly in that Ozone Advance allows participation by an expanded set of areas, and includes simplified program participation requirements.

Areas eligible to participate in Ozone Advance are those that are not yet designated or that are designated as attainment, unclassifiable/attainment, or unclassifiable for the 2008 ozone NAAQS (0.075 ppm). Areas designated nonattainment for the 1997 8-hour standard (0.08 ppm) are not eligible to participate. The state, tribe, and/or local government should generally identify the affected area(s) for the program, and the air monitor(s) that reflect the air quality in the area. Emissions inventory reporting responsibilities should be met prior to applying for participation in Ozone Advance.

Participation in Ozone Advance will begin by submitting a sign up letter to the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) by a state, tribe, and/or local agency, and OAQPS' acknowledgment that the state, tribe, and/or local agency has met the basic program eligibility criteria. The participating state, tribe, and/or local agency will then begin to work with the EPA and stakeholders to understand the local issues and options for addressing them. Following these discussions, and preferably no later than a year after signing up for the program, the participating state, tribe, and/or local agency will indicate the measures and programs that will be put in place and a schedule for implementation.

Participants will work with the EPA to quickly evaluate, select, and implement control measures and programs. The EPA can share information about available tools, resources, and data that may be of use in resolving participants' issues, identify emission reduction and public awareness/education options that could feed into the strategies chosen by participants and provide technical advice. The EPA will also facilitate information sharing between participating areas and other areas and organizations that have experience with local programs.

We will encourage Ozone Advance participants to maximize multi-pollutant reductions when selecting measures and programs to further reduce ozone. In addition, we envision offering a similar program in the future to address particulate matter (PM) in PM near-nonattainment areas. Strategies to achieve multi-pollutant (nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and PM in particular) reductions related to diesel emissions will be critical to this effort, along with work to reduce residential wood smoke. The EPA will encourage Ozone Advance participants that are also near-nonattainment for PM to combine their Advance programs into one multi-pollutant program that addresses both ozone and PM.

With this memorandum, I am transmitting the guidance for Ozone Advance and request that Regional Offices forward it to their states as well as to any tribes and local agencies that may have an interest in the program, and promote participation in the program where appropriate. Some Regional Offices may prefer and are encouraged to work with interested states, tribes, and local agencies directly as part of this program, in coordination with OAQPS. Other Regional Offices may prefer to refer interested agencies to OAQPS, who will engage with the agencies directly in coordination with the Regional Office. In either case, we will involve the Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) if the area is pursuing mobile source strategies or needs assistance with on- or near-road inventories.

The following individuals have been identified as contacts for each Regional Office:

Region 1	Anne Arnold	Region 6	Carrie Paige
Region 2	Paul Truchan	Region 7	Lachala Kemp
Region 3	Cristina Fernandez	Region 8	Jody Ostendorf, Scott Jackson
Region 4	Jane Spann	Region 9	John Kelly
Region 5	Steve Rosenthal	Region 10	Claudia Vaupel

Please notify Laura Bunte of my staff at (919) 541-0889, or ADVANCE@epa.gov if you would like to select different or additional Regional Office contact(s) for this effort. Laura is available to answer any questions you may have, and can provide you with information which you may consider using in communicating with states, tribes, and local governments regarding Ozone Advance. Information about the program may also be found on the program website: www.epa.gov/ozoneadvance.

Attachment

cc: Gina McCarthy, OAR
Janet McCabe, OAR
Kevin McLean, OGC
Gregory A. Green, OAQPS
Margo Oge, OTAQ
Karl Simon, OTAQ
Bill Becker, NACAA
R. Steven Brown, ECOS
Bill Thompson, NTAA
Janice Nolen, ALA

