CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Attainment and Non-Attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards in Connecticut

- **Ozone**
- **Carbon Monoxide**
- **Particulate Matter**

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The State of Connecticut can be broadly designated as either attainment or non-attainment with respect to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for the following six criteria air pollutants: particulate matter no greater than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM_{10}); sulfur dioxide (SO_2); ozone (O_3); nitrogen dioxide (NO_2); carbon monoxide (CO); and lead (Pb). The current designations are:

Attainment: CO, NO_2, Pb, and SO_2

Non-Attainment: Ozone, and PM_{10} (portions of the state)

When the State has been designated as attainment for an air pollutant, all regions of the State are in compliance with all the standards (i.e., short term and long term; primary and secondary) for the particular pollutant. This is the case for NO_2, Pb_2 and SO_2.

When the State has been designated as non-attainment for an air pollutant, one or more of the standards for the pollutant have been violated in one or more regions of the State. The non-attainment designation that is subsequently applied to a region can reflect the "degree" of non-attainment depending upon a number of factors including the air pollution history in the region, previous designation of the region as either attainment or non-attainment, lack of air pollutant monitoring in the region, and inferences made based on pollutant monitoring done in adjacent or similar regions.

Ozone. The entire state of Connecticut is designated as non-attainment for the 1-hour ozone standard, but the degree of non-attainment varies between regions. The region comprising Fairfield County (less Shelton), New Milford and Bridgewater is designated as "severe non-attainment" for the 1-hour ozone standard. The remainder of the State is designated as "serious non-attainment" for the 1-hour standard. The difference in the two designations is explained by higher ozone concentrations in excess of the 1-hour ozone standard in the Fairfield County portion of the NY-NJ-CT non-attainment area at the time of designation.

In July of 1997, EPA promulgated a revised ozone standard, which is based on an 8-hour averaging period. As a result of court challenges, EPA attainment/non-attainment designations for the new 8-hour ozone standard are likely to be delayed until the 2003/2004 timeframe. Designations will be based on the most recent 3 years of monitoring data. EPA is currently in the process of developing policy/regulations that will specify how long the 1-hour ozone standard will remain in effect after designations are promulgated for the 8-hour standard.

Carbon Monoxide. Recently, Connecticut has been redesignated to attainment statewide. Previously, three regions had been designated nonattainment, including the Hartford, New Haven and Fairfield County regions. The Hartford Region was officially redesignated to attainment effective January 2, 1996; the New Haven region became attainment December 4, 1998; while the Fairfield County region (i.e., the CT portion of the New York/New Jersey/Connecticut area) became attainment effective May 10, 1999. The remaining regions of the State continue to be designated as attainment.

Particulate Matter. EPA has established NAAQS for two size ranges of particulate matter. For particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less (PM_{10}), all of Connecticut is currently designated as attainment, except for the city of New Haven. Measured PM_{10} values in New Haven have been in compliance with the air quality standard for several years and CTDEP expects to gain EPA approval to redesignate the area to attainment in the near future. In July of 1997, EPA

promulgated a new NAAQS for particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less ($PM_{2.5}$). As a result of court challenges, EPA attainment/non-attainment designations for the new $PM_{2.5}$, NAAQS have been delayed until the 2003/2004 time frame. Designations will be made based upon the most recent 3 years of monitoring data.

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