

U.S. EPA Region 4 Air Quality Update

**Carolinas Air Pollution Control Association
*Asheville, NC***

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
Atlanta, GA**



Today's Topics

Administrative Update

Air Program Update

- Air Quality Trends
- Progress on NAAQS Implementation
- Clean Air Act Regulatory and Policy Activity
- Voluntary Programs and Successes

Questions



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Air, Pesticides & Toxics Management Division

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Plans for FY18 and Beyond

The new 2018-2022 Strategic Plan charts the course for advancing EPA's priorities and mission to protect human health and the environment



<https://www.epa.gov/planandbudget>



Leaning EPA

EPA is Implementing a Lean Management System (LMS)

EPA Desires:

Continuous improvement through problem solving at the level closest to the work

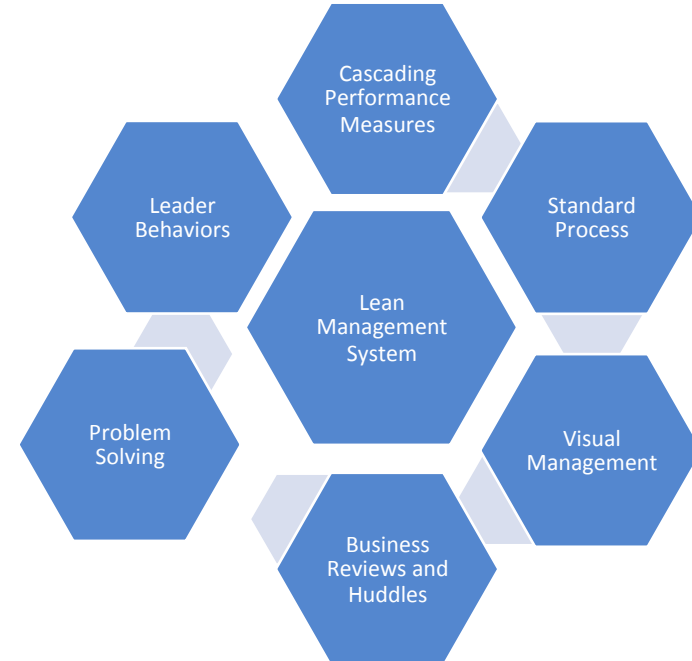
Continuous improvement based on respect for the people doing the work

Accountability to the process without blaming people

Sustainment of gains from its improvement efforts

Development and adherence to standard processes

LEAN MANAGEMENT SYSTEM





Air Quality Trends

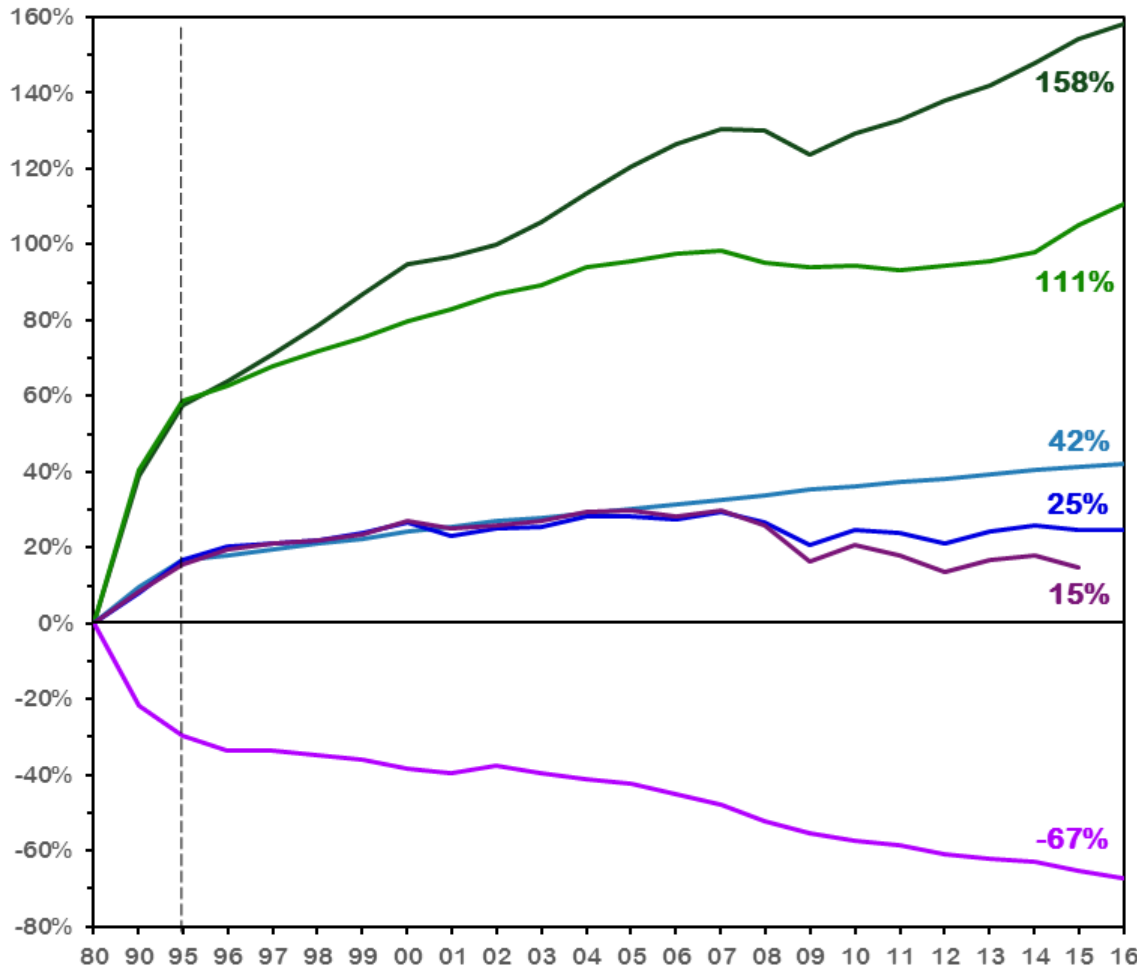
- Comparison of Growth vs Emissions, 1980-2016
- National Emissions Inventory
- 2012-2016 Region 4 TRI (Air Releases Only)





Comparison of Growth vs Emissions

Comparison of Growth Areas and Emissions, 1980-2016



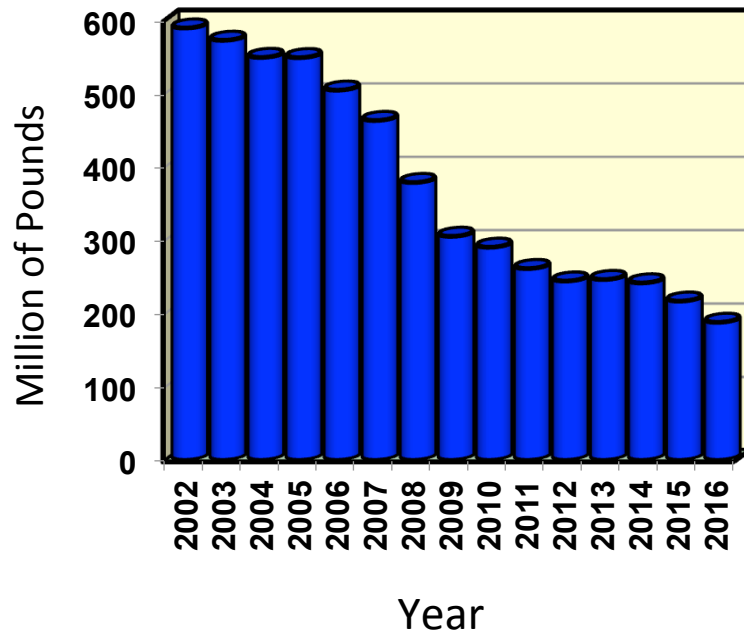
-  **Gross Domestic Product**
-  **Vehicles Miles Traveled**
-  **Population**
-  **Energy Consumption**
-  **CO₂ Emissions**
-  **Aggregate Emissions (Six Common Pollutants)**



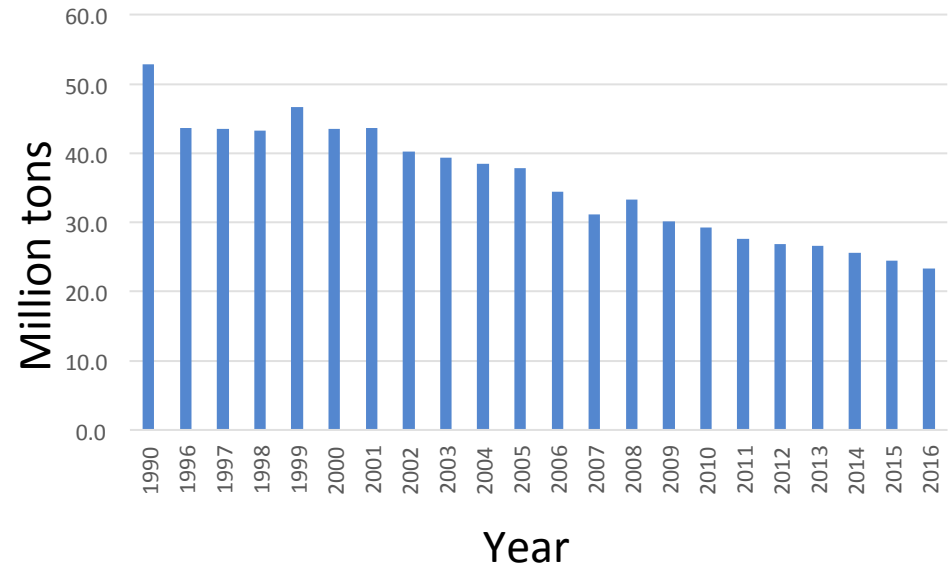
Emissions Have Reduced

REGION 4

TRI (Air Emissions)



Criteria Pollutant Emissions*



*NOX, SO2, CO, VOC, NH3, PM2.5 and PM10

www.epa.gov/air-emissions-inventories/national-emissions-inventory-nei
And
www.epa.gov/tri



Progress on NAAQS Implementation

- Progress on Ozone and PM_{2.5} Attainment in Region 4
- Current Region 4 Nonattainment Areas (all NAAQS Pollutants)
- 2015 Ozone Designations Process
- 2010 SO₂ Designations Process





Progress on Ozone and PM_{2.5} Attainment in Region 4

| OZONE | 1997 NAAQS (2004 Designations) | 2008 NAAQS (2012 Designations) |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Initial Nonattainment Areas | 14 | 5 |
| Areas Redesignated to Attainment | 14 | 5 |
| Current Nonattainment Areas | 0 | 0 |

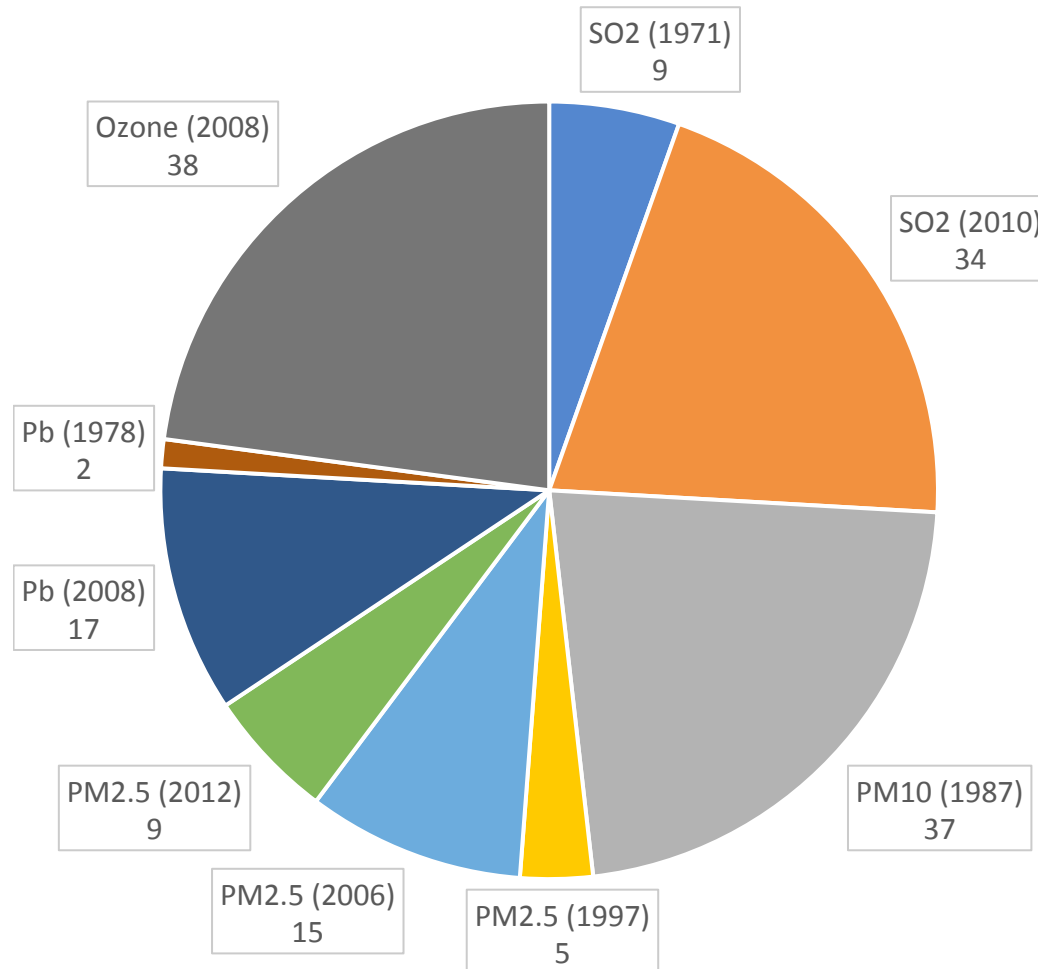
| PM _{2.5} | 1997 PM _{2.5} NAAQS (2005 Designations) | 2006 PM _{2.5} NAAQS (2009 Designations) | 2012 PM _{2.5} NAAQS (2015 Designations) |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Initial Nonattainment Areas | 11 | 2 | 0 |
| Areas Redesignated to Attainment | 11 | 2 | 0 |
| Current Nonattainment Areas | 0 | 0 | 0 |

<https://www.epa.gov/green-book>



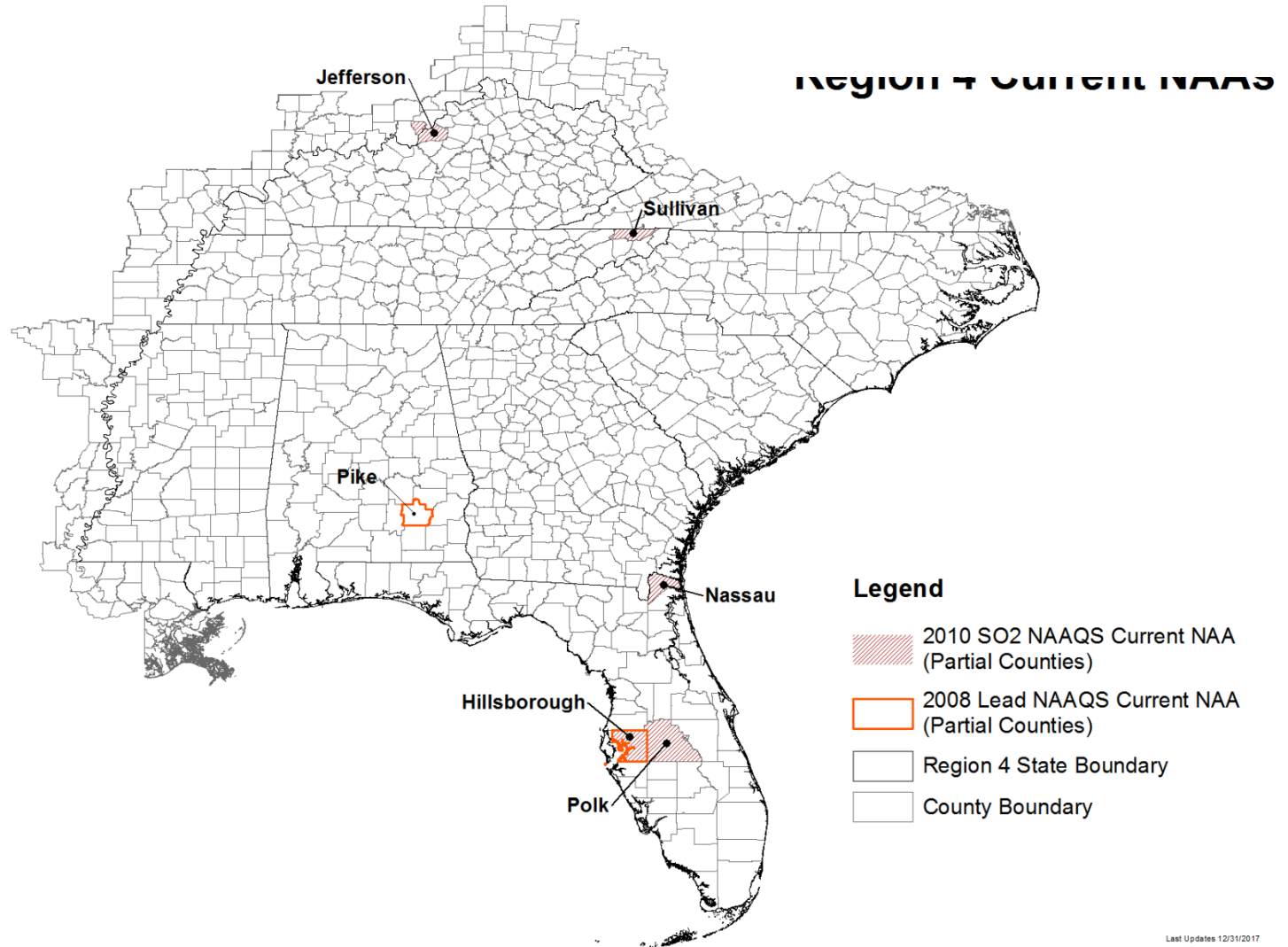
National Focus on NAAQS Implementation

Nonattainment Areas for Non-revoked NAAQS as of 10/1/17





Current R4 Nonattainment Areas (all NAAQS Pollutants)





2015 Ozone Designations Process

- **October 1, 2015:** EPA revised primary 8-hour Ozone NAAQS (70 ppb)
- Final designations required within 2 years after NAAQS promulgation (Administrator has discretion to extend the deadline by one year to collect sufficient information)
 - State and Tribal Recommendations were submitted to EPA by October 1, 2016
- **November 6, 2017:** Consistent with the states' and tribes' recommendations, EPA designates most of the U.S. (including all of NC and SC) "attainment/unclassifiable" for the 2015 ozone standards
- **December 22, 2017:** EPA responds to state and tribal recommendations by indicating the anticipated area designations for the remaining portions of the U.S.; kicked-off a 120 day period for states to provide additional information
 - Nonattainment: Atlanta, GA; Louisville, KY-IN; Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN
 - Unclassifiable: Jacksonville, FL



2010 SO₂ Designations Process

Round 1: Completed August 2013 – EPA Region 4 designated 5 areas nonattainment based on existing monitors violating the standard*

Round 2: Completed June 30 and November 29, 2016 – EPA designated 65 areas in 24 states based on air dispersion modeling and 2013-2015 violating monitors (6 areas designated in Region 4)

Round 3: Completed December 21, 2017 and March 28, 2018 – EPA completed an additional round of designations for all remaining undesignated areas ***except*** where states have deployed new monitoring networks by January 1, 2017 ***if*** executed under the SO₂ Data Requirements Rule (DRR); one new area was designated nonattainment

Round 4: By December 31, 2020 – EPA must complete designations for all remaining areas (based on 2017-2019 monitoring data)

Rounds 1-3

EPA currently has five areas designated as nonattainment in three States in Region 4 (None in NC or SC)

www.epa.gov/so2-pollution/applying-or-implementing-sulfur-dioxide-standards

*one of the five has been redesignated to attainment (Campbell County, KY)



Other Clean Air Act Regulatory and Policy Activity

- Interstate Air Pollution Transport
- Regional Haze
- NSR Improvements and other recent actions
- Clean Power Plan
- Landfills
- Recent Risk and Technology Review Rules
- Air Emissions from Animal Waste at Farms





Interstate Air Pollution Transport

- **Clean Air Act's "good neighbor" provision** (section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I)) requires EPA and states to address interstate transport of air pollution that affects downwind states' ability to attain and maintain the NAAQS
 - Currently EPA is working with states to develop and/or approve good neighbor SIPs
- **Most recently**
 - 2015 Ozone NAAQS - March 2018 Memo and Supplemental Information Regarding Good Neighbor SIPs for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS
 - 2008 Ozone NAAQS - October 2017 Memo and Supplemental Information to address the remaining interstate transport for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS
 - 2010 SO₂ NAAQS – EPA is currently coordinating with states on an appropriate analytical approach for developing their good neighbor SIPs

www.epa.gov/airmarkets/interstate-air-pollution-transport



Regional Haze Updates

- **7/8/16 (81 FR 44608): EPA released draft guidance**
 - Next steps on guidance are expected to be developed as EPA initiates regulatory review of the 2017 rule revisions (see below)
- **1/10/17 (82 FR 3078): Rule revisions finalized**
 - Petitions for review filed in the D.C. Circuit; petitions for reconsideration submitted to EPA
 - **1/17/18:** EPA announced its decision to revisit aspects of the 2017 rule revisions
 - **1/30/18:** Court granted EPA's motion to place the litigation into abeyance "pending administrative proceedings that may result in changes or clarifications to the challenged rule and thereby potentially narrow the scope of this litigation"
- **3/21/18:** DC Circuit upheld EPA's final "CSAPR Better Than BART Rule"

<https://www.epa.gov/visibility>



NSR Improvements and Other Recent Actions

- Actual-to-Projected-Actual Applicability Test Guidance Memorandum
- Project Emissions Accounting Memo
- Project Emissions Accounting Rulemaking
- Source Aggregation Guidance
- Project Aggregation Reconsideration
- Ambient Air Guidance
- Rulemaking on Treatment of Biomass for Permitting
- PM_{2.5} and Ozone SILs Guidance
- Routine Maintenance, Repair and Replacement (RMRR)
- Once-In-Always-In



Clean Power Plan

- **October 10, 2017:** EPA proposed to repeal the Clean Power Plan (CPP), by determining that the CPP, as it stands, exceeds the Agency's statutory authority.
 - Public hearing in November 2017; three additional listening sessions were held in February and March 2018 (Kansas City, San Francisco, Gillette, WY)
 - Comment period extended to April 26, 2018
- **December 21, 2017:** EPA published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to solicit information from the public about a potential future rulemaking to limit GHGs from existing power plants
 - Comment period closed February 26, 2018

www.epa.gov/cleanpowerplan



Landfills

- **August 29, 2016:** EPA announced final updates to its New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) and Emission Guidelines for reducing emissions from Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) landfills
- **May 2017:** EPA announced the agency is reconsidering several issues in the 2016 final rules
- **May 31, 2017:** The EPA issued a 90-day stay (until August 29, 2017) on the 2016 NSPS and Emission Guidelines
 - The Stay has expired and the 2016 rules are currently in effect
- The EPA still intends to complete the reconsideration process granted by the Administrator
- The EPA will continue to work with states and stakeholders as we develop a path forward for the agency to address these issues

<https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/municipal-solid-waste-landfills-new-source-performance-standards>



Recent Risk and Technology Review Rules

The Risk and Technology Review (RTR) is a combined effort to evaluate both risk and technology as required by the Clean Air Act (CAA) after the application of maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standards.

Recent Final RTRs:

- Pulp and Paper published 10/11/17
- Nutritional Yeast published 10/ <https://www3.epa.gov/airtoxics/rrisk/rtrpg.html>
- Publicly-Owned Treatment Works published 10/26/17





Air Emission from Animal Waste at Farms

- **December 18, 2008:** EPA published a final rule exempting farms from CERCLA reporting of air releases of hazardous substances from animal waste; the rule was challenged in court (DC Circuit)
- **April 11, 2017:** The Court struck down the final rule; January 19, 2018, EPA filed a motion to further delay issuance of the mandate so that EPA can develop guidance materials to help farmers understand their CERCLA reporting obligations
- **February 1, 2018:** The DC Circuit Court of Appeals granted EPA's motion to further stay issuance of the mandate until May 1, 2018
- When the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals issues its mandate vacating the 2008 final rule (expected as soon as May 1, 2018), farms will **remain exempt** from the CERCLA reporting requirements as a result of the Omnibus Bill which was signed into law on March 23, 2018



Voluntary Programs and Successes

- Advance Program
- Southeast Diesel Collaborative (SEDC)





Advance Program

A collaborative effort by EPA, states, tribes, and local governments to encourage emission reductions in attainment areas, to help them continue to meet the air quality standards for ozone and PM_{2.5}

Program Goals:

- Help attainment areas to ensure continued health protection
- Better position areas to remain in attainment
- Efficiently direct available resources toward actions to address ozone and PM_{2.5} problems quickly

Region 4 Participants

SC – entire state

Catawba Tribe, SC

Middle GA (including Robins Air Force Base)

Louisville, KY

Cumberland County, NC (including Fort Bragg)

Charlotte, NC

NC – Remainder of the State

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www.epa.gov/advance



Southeast Diesel Collaborative (SEDC)

- Voluntary public/private partnership formed in 2006 (part of the National Clean Diesel Campaign), focused on clean diesel opportunities that incorporate Energy, the Environment and Economics
- Diverse Partners from government, industry, state/local groups with the goal of improving air quality and public health by reducing emissions from existing diesel engines
- Annual funding under the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA)
- 13th Annual Partners Meeting will be held the week of September 24, 2018, in Charleston, SC



www.southeastdiesel.org



Questions?

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