

## **FACT SHEET**

### **Revision to the Near-road NO<sub>2</sub> Minimum Monitoring Requirements**

#### **ACTION**

On December 22, 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revised the minimum monitoring requirements for near-road nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) monitoring.

Specifically, the EPA removed the requirement for near-road NO<sub>2</sub> monitoring stations in Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSAs) having populations between 500,000 and 1,000,000 persons, that had been scheduled to be installed and operational by January 1, 2017.

Current near-road NO<sub>2</sub> monitoring data indicate air quality levels in the near-road environment are well below the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for NO<sub>2</sub>. In light of this information, and the relationship between population, traffic, and expected NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the near-road environment, EPA expects measured near-road NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in relatively smaller CBSAs (e.g., CBSAs with populations less than 1,000,000 persons) would exhibit similar and, more likely, lower concentrations than what is being measured in larger urban areas.

This action does not modify the requirements for near-road NO<sub>2</sub> monitors in more populated areas, area-wide NO<sub>2</sub> monitoring, or for monitoring of NO<sub>2</sub> in areas with susceptible and vulnerable populations.

#### **BACKGROUND**

In support of the 2010 NO<sub>2</sub> National Ambient Air Quality Standard (75 FR 6474), the EPA revised the requirements for minimum numbers of ambient NO<sub>2</sub> monitors. This action included requirements:

- for new monitoring near major roads in larger urban areas,
- to characterize NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations representative of wider spatial scales in larger urban areas (area-wide monitors), and
- for monitors intended to characterize NO<sub>2</sub> exposures of susceptible and vulnerable populations.

Originally, the near-road component of the ambient NO<sub>2</sub> monitoring network was required to be completely operational by January 1, 2013. However, in 2012, through a public notice and comment rulemaking, the EPA established three phases for the installation of near-road NO<sub>2</sub> monitoring stations. The revised installation schedule allowed more time for states to establish the near-road NO<sub>2</sub> monitoring network on a schedule consistent with available resources.

- Phase 1: In CBSAs with a population of 1,000,000 or more persons, one near-road NO<sub>2</sub> monitor shall be reflected in the state Annual Monitoring Network Plan submitted July 1, 2013, and that monitor shall be operational by January 1, 2014.
- Phase 2: In CBSAs where two near-road NO<sub>2</sub> monitors are required (either because the CBSA has a population of 2,500,000 or more persons, or has a population of 500,000 or more persons plus one or more roadway segments having annual average daily traffic [AADT] counts of 250,000 or more), the second near-road NO<sub>2</sub> monitor shall be reflected in the state Annual Monitoring Network Plan submitted July 1, 2014, and that monitor shall be operational by January 1, 2015.
- Phase 3: In CBSAs with a population of at least 500,000 persons, but less than 1,000,000 persons, one near-road NO<sub>2</sub> monitor shall be reflected in the state Annual Monitoring Network Plan submitted July 1, 2016, and the monitor shall be operational by January 1, 2017.

Today's action removes the requirement to install and operate monitors for Phase 3 of the near-road monitoring network.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- A copy of the rule and fact sheet are available on EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/no2-pollution/ambient-nitrogen-dioxide-monitoring-requirements>.
- For further information about the rulemaking, contact Neilson Watkins at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5522 or [watkins.nealson@epa.gov](mailto:watkins.nealson@epa.gov).