

FACT SHEET

Response to December 9, 2013, Clean Air Act Section 176A Petition from Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont

Action

- On October 27, 2017, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) denied a petition from Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont under section 176A(a) of the Clean Air Act (CAA).
- The petition asks the EPA to add Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, West Virginia and a portion of Virginia to the Ozone Transport Region (OTR), alleging that these states significantly contribute to violations of the 2008 ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) in the OTR.
- The EPA has determined that expanding the OTR is not appropriate at this time. Better-targeted approaches, such as those under the Clean Air Act's good neighbor provision, will be more effective in addressing the remaining transport obligations for the 2008 ozone NAAQS
- States and the EPA have effectively applied the CAA "good neighbor" provision for addressing interstate pollution transport for this NAAQS and others going back two decades. This provision gives the states and EPA the flexibility to issue a tailored plan to address interstate transport of ozone that includes proven, efficient, and cost-effective ways to address air quality concerns.
- For example, EPA's September 2016 updated Cross-State Air Pollution Rule is a significant step to address states' emission reduction obligations under the good neighbor provision for the 2008 ozone NAAQS. In addition, the EPA is continuing the work necessary, in conjunction with its state partners, to address remaining good neighbor obligations.
- Existing state and federal rules will continue to achieve significant reductions in emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds resulting in lower levels of transported ozone pollution.

More Information

- To read the final notice, visit <https://www.epa.gov/ozone-pollution/2008-ozone-national-ambient-air-quality-standards-naaqs-section-176A-petitions>.