

January 16, 2018

Data Quality Record for Strategic Measures

Strategic Measure Text: By September 30, 2022, reduce the number of nonattainment areas to 101.

Goal Number/Objective: Goal 1: Core Mission/Objective 1.1: Improve Air Quality

NPM Lead: Anna Wood, Office of Air and Radiation (OAR)

1a. Purpose of Strategic Measure:

The purpose of this strategic measure is to measure the reduction in the number of nonattainment areas by the end of FY 2022 for the 166 areas that are nonattainment for the six National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) criteria pollutants (excluding any standards that were revoked prior to October 1, 2017).¹ A downward trend over several years will generally indicate improving air quality across the country, reduced human health impacts, and reduced Clean Air Act (CAA) requirements for certain states and localities.

1b. Performance Measure Term Definitions:

- The performance measure is expressed in terms of numbers of areas that remain designated as nonattainment for any non-revoked NAAQS. These areas are designated pursuant to CAA section 107.
- An area can be redesignated from nonattainment to maintenance when: (1) the air quality in the area attains the NAAQS; and (2) the EPA region approves the state plan for maintaining compliance with the NAAQS for the next 10 years. Note that some nonattainment areas include portions of multiple states (e.g., Washington, DC, nonattainment area for the 2008 ozone NAAQS also includes portions of MD and VA); therefore, a multi-state nonattainment area will not be considered completely redesignated to attainment until all states in the area have EPA-approved maintenance plans and are redesignated.

1c. Unit of Measure: Nonattainment areas.

2a. Data Source:

- The designation status for all states and counties with respect to each NAAQS are specified in [40 CFR Part 81](#). Each final redesignation action is published in the Federal Register and specifies the relevant modifications to Part 81 needed to change the status of certain counties from nonattainment to attainment. Note: Under CAA, redesignations from nonattainment to attainment are initiated by states.
- EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards maintains data systems, such as the Findings & Required Element Data (FRED) system and the [EPA Green Book](#), that are updated to reflect any redesignation actions published in the Federal Register.
 - The FRED system is an internal/EPA-only management tracking system.
 - The Green Book is a publicly accessible website (updated monthly).
- The nonattainment area reporting will be summarized on a monthly basis.

2b. Data needed for interpretation of (calculated) Performance Result:

- The nonattainment area metric will track the status of the baseline of 166 areas that were designated as nonattainment as of the end of FY 2017 (9/30/2017). New areas designated nonattainment after 10/1/2017 would not be added to the baseline.

3. Methodology

- EPA regions will report approved maintenance plans for their respective areas in the FRED system before the end of each month. A summary report describing the number of current nonattainment areas by NAAQS will be generated by the FRED system.

¹ (e.g., the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS was revoked through notice and comment rulemaking because the more stringent 2008 8-hour ozone NAAQS was being implemented).

- The publicly available Green Book system also will be updated as additional areas are redesignated. After these updates, EPA will account for redesignated areas in the strategic measure.
- The Green Book has a summary of the nonattainment areas based on reviewing FRN actions published since the last posting of the Green Book. The Green Book contractor updates the Green Book summary reports based on published final EPA redesignation actions.
- Prior to new Green Book postings, the contractor runs a quality assurance check comparing the internal FRED reported nonattainment status with the updated summary in the draft Green Book. The FRED/Green Book program manager informs regions of any discrepancies for clarification. The Green Book update will be posted monthly with a summary of the nonattainment area status after resolving the discrepancies.
- The [Summary Nonattainment Area Population Exposure Report](#) is available in the Green Book. The summary report provides the number of nonattainment areas by NAAQS. The sum of the current number of nonattainment areas is compared to the 166 areas in the baseline.
- For example, the current Green Book was posted on 9/30/2017 and provides the summary report of the 166 nonattainment areas by NAAQS as of 9/30/2017.

8-Hour Ozone (2008)	PM-2.5 (2012)	PM-2.5 (2006)	PM-2.5 (1997)	PM-10 (1987)	SO ₂ (2010)	SO ₂ (1971)	Lead (2008)	Lead (1978)
107,290 (38)	23,223 (9)	31,658 (15)	22,161 (5)	9,135 (37)	3,004 (34)	1,217 (9)	9,652 (17)	5 (2)

4. Data Limitations/Qualifications:

The calculation of the number of current nonattainment areas on a monthly basis is straightforward and assumes that the relevant tracking databases are updated in a timely manner.

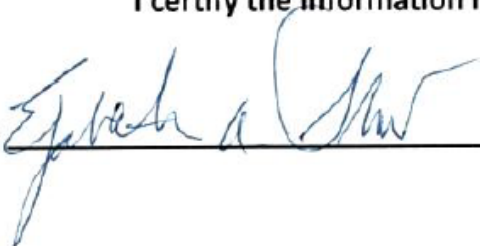
5. Technical Contact:

Butch Stackhouse/919-541-5208

6. Certification Statement/Signature

I certify the information in this DQR is complete and accurate.

DAA Signature



Date:

3/1/18