



Help Improve Air Quality & Protect Public Health! Tell EPA to Lower the National Ozone Standard

Good news! The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to lower (i.e. tighten or improve) the national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) for ground level ozone. **EPA needs your support for their proposal – please submit comments to the agency by Tuesday, March 17th.**

Ozone, a key component of smog, is nasty stuff – if there is too much of it in the atmosphere, it can cause respiratory system effects such as difficulty breathing and airway inflammation, even in healthy people. For people with lung diseases such as asthma and COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), these effects can lead to emergency room visits and hospital admissions. Studies have also found that ozone exposure is likely to cause premature death from lung or heart diseases. In addition, evidence indicates that long-term exposure to ozone is likely to result in harmful respiratory effects, including respiratory symptoms and the development of asthma.

While ozone was once thought of as an urban problem, ozone pollution is increasing in rural areas of Wyoming and across the Western U.S. due to rapidly expanding oil and gas development and coal mining activity.

EPA's scientific advisors have concluded that the current standard of 75 parts per billion needs to be lowered to protect public health. In 2011, then EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson stated that this standard is "legally indefensible" because it does not meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act. In response, EPA is proposing to lower the standard to a range of 65 to 70 parts per billion.

Please tell EPA to protect public health and lower the ozone standard. Tell the agency that they should listen to their scientific advisors and lower the standard to meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act.

EPA needs to hear from you. Several years ago, EPA proposed to lower the standard but the proposal was withdrawn under political pressure from the energy industries. Citizens need to weigh in and support EPA action. **Tell EPA it is critical for them to lower the ozone standard since it is one of the most important things they can do to protect public health and improve air quality in the face of increasing industrial development in Wyoming.**

Email your comments to A-and-R-Docket@epa.gov now but no later than midnight eastern time on Tuesday March 17th. Please include Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0699 in the subject line of your email.

More info on EPA's proposal can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/groundlevelozone/actions.html>

Thank you for your action!
Powder River Basin Resource Council Staff