

Extension of the Summer Gasoline Volatility Standard to the Denver-Boulder-Greeley-Fort Collins-Loveland, Colorado, 1997 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing regulations which would extend the federal summertime low volatility requirements to those portions of the Denver-Boulder-Greeley-Ft. Collins-Loveland, Colorado, 1997 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area not currently covered.

Summary of the Proposed Rule

The proposed rule would establish an applicable standard of 7.8 pounds per square inch (psi) Reid vapor pressure (RVP) under the federal volatility control program in the Denver-Boulder-Greeley-Ft. Collins-Loveland, Colorado, 1997 8-hour ozone nonattainment area during the high ozone season - June 1st to September 15th of each year-beginning in 2010. This action would require the use of 7.8 psi RVP gasoline in Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties, and in portions of Larimer and Weld counties.

Background

Evaporative emissions from gasoline, referred to as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), are precursors to the formation of tropospheric ozone and contribute to the nation's ground-level ozone problem. Exposure to ground-level ozone can reduce lung function (thereby aggravating asthma or other respiratory conditions), increase susceptibility to respiratory infection, and may contribute to premature death in people with heart and lung disease.

Section 211(h) of the Clean Air Act requires EPA to promulgate regulations establishing a maximum RVP of 9.0 psi for gasoline sold during the high ozone season. It

also requires EPA to “establish more stringent Reid Vapor Pressure standards in a nonattainment area as the Administrator finds necessary to generally achieve comparable evaporative emissions (on a per-vehicle basis) in nonattainment areas, taking into consideration the enforceability of such standards, the need of an area for emission control, and economic factors.”

In today’s action, EPA is proposing to establish an applicable standard for gasoline at 7.8 pounds per square inch (psi) under the federal volatility control program in the Denver-Boulder-Greeley-Ft. Collins-Loveland, Colorado, 1997 8-hour ozone nonattainment area (as codified in volume 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 81) during the high ozone season, beginning in 2010. This action would require the use of 7.8 psi RVP gasoline in Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties, and in portions of Larimer and Weld counties.

Gasoline with 7.8 psi RVP is already required in the former 1-hour ozone nonattainment area, which represents a significant portion of the fuel used in the area. As a practical matter, the net change proposed in this action extends the low RVP fuel requirement to portions of Larimer and Weld counties and into the remaining portions of Arapahoe, Adams, Boulder and Broomfield counties.

For More Information

For further information on this rulemaking, please contact Kurt Gustafson at:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Transportation & Air Quality
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW (6406J)
Washington, DC 20460
(202) 343-9219
E-mail: gustafson.kurt@epa.gov