

Agenda Date: May 19, 2005
Agenda Placement: Regular
Estimated Time: 5 Minutes
Continued Item: No

Board Agenda Item

TO: Air Pollution Control District Board

FROM: Terry Dressler, Air Pollution Control Officer

CONTACT: Tom Murphy, Division Manager (961-8857)

SUBJECT: New 8-hour Ozone Air Quality Standard for California

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a briefing on the recently adopted 8-hour ozone air quality standard by the California Air Resources Board.

DISCUSSION:

On April 28, 2005, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) approved a new more health protective air quality standard for ozone with special consideration for children's health (see Attachment 1: California Environmental Protection Agency News Release). The new 8-hour standard set at 0.070 parts per million (ppm) is not to be exceeded and is in addition to the existing state 1-hour ozone standard set at 0.09 ppm. The new standard was adopted pursuant to the Children's Environmental Health Protection Act, passed in 1999, that requires ARB to work in consultation with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to "review all existing health-based ambient air quality standards to determine whether these standards protect public health, including infants and children, with an adequate margin of safety." The new standard will go into effect after California's review process for new regulations is completed later this year or early next year.

The most important implications of the new 8-hour ozone standard, as currently understood, are:

- The new standard will be more difficult to attain as it is more health protective than existing state and federal ozone standards.
- Implementation of the new standard will extend our planning mandates to develop Clean Air Plan progress reports and plan revisions.

- The new standard will extend our programs for Rule Development, New Source Review (NSR) permitting, and analysis of projects using existing thresholds under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Local Air Quality Data

The new 8-hour ozone standard (0.070 ppm) will be in addition to the existing state 1-hour standard (0.09 ppm). Based on data collected from 2002 through 2004, seven monitoring stations in Santa Barbara County are out of compliance with the new standard. These sites include Carpinteria, Las Flores Canyon, Lompoc HS&P, Vandenberg AFB, Nojoqui Summit, Santa Ynez, and Paradise Road. Currently, only the Paradise Road site does not comply with the existing state 1-hour ozone standard.

Staff have also reviewed the long-term trend for the new 8-hour ozone standard by compiling the number of exceedance days (any day in which a site records a concentration greater than the 8-hour standard) throughout the county from 1988 to 2004. These data show that the number of exceedances range from a high of 98 days in 1989 to a low of 19 days in 2004. While we currently experience 19 days where people are exposed to concentrations above the new 8-hour ozone standard, the long-term trend shows a continued improvement in air quality over the last 15 years.

Implementation of the New 8-Hour Ozone Standard

We do not anticipate that implementation of the new 8-hour ozone standard will require any additional resources or specific actions at this time. Rather, the new standard will necessitate that we continue our existing programs in planning, rule development, permitting and environmental review. For planning purposes, we must develop a progress report and plan revision for our Clean Air Plan every three years; this requirement will continue until we are in compliance with the new 8-hour standard. As our Clean Air Plans form the basis for the rules and regulations that we must develop to comply with applicable standards, our current rule development efforts will continue as determined by our Clean Air Plans. For both permitting and environmental review, we will continue implementation of our NSR program and existing CEQA thresholds at least until all applicable ambient air quality standards have been attained. The new 8-hour ozone standard will not require any modifications to these programs, but will extend their applicability.

CONCLUSION:

ARB has recently adopted a new 8-hour ozone air quality standard set at 0.070 ppm. This standard is more protective of public health than the existing state 1-hour standard set at 0.09 ppm and is intended to further protect California's most vulnerable population from the adverse health effects associated with ground-level ozone. While we do not expect that this new standard will require any additional resources or specific actions at this time, the implementation timeline of our current planning, rule development, permitting and environmental review programs will continue at least until such time that we comply with this and all other applicable air quality standards.

Attachment 1: California Environmental Protection Agency News Release.

cc: Michael Powers, SBCAG

Attachment 1



Release 05-10

**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE
April 28, 2005**

CONTACT: Jerry Martin
Gennet Paauwe
(916) 322-2990
www.arb.ca.gov

California Adopts New Ozone Standard Children's Health Focus of New Requirement

EL MONTE, CALIF. -- Today the California Air Resources Board (ARB) approved the nation's most health protective ozone standard with special consideration for children's health. The new 8-hour-average standard at 0.070 parts per million (ppm) will further protect California's most vulnerable population from the adverse health effects associated with ground-level ozone, or smog. The new 8-hour-average ozone standard is the first of its kind in the state.

"It is clear that children who grow up under smoggy skies have greater health problems than those who breathe clean air," said ARB Chairman Barbara Riordan. "California has a longstanding record of adopting the world's cleanest air quality standards and today's action continues our leadership in protecting public health."

The Children's Environmental Health Protection Act, passed in 1999, requires the ARB, in consultation with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, to "review all existing health-based ambient air quality standards to determine whether these standards protect public health, including infants and children, with an adequate margin of safety." As a result of that requirement, the ARB today adopted the new ozone standard:

- A new 8-hour-average standard for ozone is established at 0.070 ppm, not to be exceeded.
- The 1-hour-average ozone standard is retained at 0.09 ppm, not to be exceeded.

Ozone, also known as urban smog, can affect human health in many ways including: itchy, watery eyes, scratchy throat, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, coughs, heightened asthma rates, cardiopulmonary cases and premature deaths. Research has also shown that ozone is associated with increased hospital visits, emergency room admissions, student and worker absences, activity restrictions and premature death. ARB research has shown that ozone is associated with new cases of asthma.

Children are a particularly vulnerable population because their increased exposure to ozone can affect lung function. ARB research has also shown that children spend more time outside, are more active and breathe at a higher rate relative to their size than do adults.

Photochemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) form unhealthy ground-level ozone. California's geography and climate help with the creation of ozone because of its warm, sunny days and mountains that trap air pollution.

The new standards amount to new clean air goals for the state and set the state's definition of healthy air. The standards will go into effect late this year or early next year, after going through California's review process for new regulations.

For further information, [click here](#).

The Air Resources Board is a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency. ARB's mission is to promote and protect public health, welfare, and ecological resources through effective reduction of air pollutants while recognizing and considering effects on the economy. The ARB oversees all air pollution control efforts in California to attain and maintain health based air quality standards.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy cost, see our web site at <http://www.arb.ca.gov>

#
