



Public Comment Period on the Proposed Washington Designation Recommendations for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) opens a 32 day public comment period on the proposed 2015 Ozone NAAQS designation recommendations starting on page 2 of this document.

Public Comment Period

August 16 – September 16, 2016

Request a Public Hearing

The public can request a public hearing by contacting Joanna Ekrem by email at Joanna.ekrem@ecy.wa.gov or by phone at 360-407-6826.

Requests must be received no later than August 30, 2016. If a hearing request is received by the deadline, it will be held at 6 pm on September 15, 2016 at the Department of Ecology, 300 Desmond Drive SE, Lacey, WA 98503. You can find a map and directions on Ecology's website <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/contact.html>.

If a hearing request is not received, Ecology will announce a cancellation of the September 15 hearing on its public involvement calendar: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publiccalendar/>.

For special accommodations or documents in alternate format, call (360) 407-6800, 711 (relay service), or 877-833-6341 (TTY).

Documents for Review

The proposal we are accepting public comment on is available starting on page 2 of this document.

A hard copy of the proposal is also available for review at Ecology Headquarters, 300 Desmond Drive, Lacey, WA 98503. Please call (360) 407-6826 to schedule an appointment to view the document.

How to Comment

You can give us your comments in the following ways:

1. Email your comments to: AQComments@ecy.wa.gov
2. Mail comments to:
Department of Ecology
Joanna Ekrem
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
3. Request a public hearing by August 30, 2016, and testify or submit written comments at the hearing.

All comments received will be part of the official public record. Ecology will prepare a response to the comments received.

Proposed Washington Designation Recommendations for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) to protect public health and the environment. When EPA revises the NAAQS, the federal Clean Air Act provides each state with an opportunity to recommend designations for all areas of the state as:

- Attainment (meets the standard),
- Nonattainment (does not meet the standard), or
- Unclassifiable (insufficient information).

2015 Ozone NAAQS

On October 1, 2015, EPA strengthened the ozone NAAQS from 75 to 70 parts per billion (ppb) ([80 FR 65292, October 26, 2015](#)). An area will meet the standard if the ozone design value is equal to or less than 70 ppb. The ozone design value is the fourth-highest maximum daily 8-hour ozone concentration per year, averaged over three years.

As the Governor’s designee for the State Implementation Plan (SIP), Ecology is responsible for submitting a recommendation to EPA by October 1, 2016 on air quality designations.

Ozone Design Values and Designation Recommendation for Washington

Ecology reviewed Washington’s ozone monitoring data, and all monitors in the state are meeting the standard based on 2013-2015 design values. Ecology installed an ozone monitor in Kennewick in 2015, and there is not enough information for a 3 year design value.

Table 1: Ozone Design Values by Monitor

Monitoring Site	2013-2015 Design Value (ppb)
Enumclaw - Mud Mtn.	66
Cheney - Turnbull	62
Spokane - Greenbluff	61
Spokane – Augusta Ave	61
Mt.Rainier - Jackson Visitors Ctr	60
North Bend – North Bend Way	59
Vancouver – Blairmont Dr	58
Yelm – Northern Pacific	54
Issaquah – Lake Sammamish	53
Cheeka Peak	52
Custer - Loomis	45
Seattle - Beacon Hill	45
Anacortes - 202 Avenue	42
Kennewick - S Clodfelter	Insufficient information

Ecology recommends the designations listed in Table 2:

Table 2: Designation Recommendations for Washington

Benton, Franklin, and Walla Walla Counties	Unclassifiable (insufficient information)
Rest of state	Attainment/unclassifiable

Since there is insufficient monitoring data for the Kennewick monitor, Ecology recommends that Benton, Franklin, and Walla Walla counties be designated unclassifiable. Unclassifiable areas are treated the same as attainment areas. The rest of the state is either in attainment with the standard or lacks monitoring data, so Ecology recommends the rest of the state be designated attainment/unclassifiable.

Next Steps

EPA will consider Ecology’s recommendation, and will review the most recent monitoring data from 2016. EPA will notify Ecology if it agrees with or modifies the state’s recommendation in June 2017. Ecology can respond to EPA by early August 2017 and submit new information or justification.

EPA will issue final designations by October 1, 2017. EPA’s final decision will take into consideration ozone monitoring data from 2014-2016. Since the Kennewick monitor will only have two years of monitoring data at that time, it is likely EPA will designate the area as unclassifiable.

Future Technical Work

In the fall of 2016, Ecology will work with local clean air agencies to review the most recent monitoring data and determine whether any area in the state violates the standard based on 2014-2016 design values. Ecology will evaluate whether exceptional events, such as wildfires, contributed to the violation. If exceptional events such as wildfires push an area into potential nonattainment, Ecology may request to EPA to remove monitoring data from exceptional events from consideration.

If an area is likely nonattainment based on 2014-2016 design values, the next step is to develop a boundary recommendation for a nonattainment area and submit the recommendation to EPA. Ecology will follow EPA’s guidance and conduct a five factor analysis to determine the boundary, in consultation with local clean air agencies and other stakeholders.

Ecology will also conduct a study in the summer of 2016 to evaluate elevated levels of ozone in the Tri-Cities area, with results expected in mid-2017. The results will tell us what is causing high levels of ozone in the area, and will help us determine additional community outreach needs and reduction strategies.

More information

For more information on designations, see:

- EPA’s ozone designations webpage - <https://www.epa.gov/ozone-designations>

Contact us

If you have any questions, or would like to receive additional information and updates on this project, please contact Joanna Ekrem at (360) 407-6826 or Joanna.ekrem@ecy.wa.gov.