

**EPA EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR DESIGNATING AREAS
for OZONE NAAQS by ONE YEAR**

EPA announced that it is using its authority under the Clean Air Act (CAA) to extend by one year the deadline for promulgating initial area designations for the ground-level ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) that were promulgated in March 2008. The new deadline is March 12, 2011. EPA is reconsidering the ground-level ozone standards set in 2008. Based on the scientific and technical record from the most recent review, EPA is proposing to set different primary and secondary NAAQS to protect public health and welfare. EPA intends to complete this reconsideration of the 2008 ozone NAAQS by August 31, 2010.

If, as a result of the reconsideration, EPA issues different ozone standards in 2010, the new ozone standards would replace the 2008 ozone NAAQS and implementation requirements associated with the replaced 2008 ozone NAAQS, including area designations, would no longer apply. Instead, EPA would begin a new process to designate areas for the 2010 ozone NAAQS on an accelerated schedule.

For more information: <http://www.epa.gov/air/ozonepollution/pdfs/fs20100106des.pdf>