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**EPA REVISES THE NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARD  
for NITROGEN DIOXIDE**

EPA is revising the primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) by establishing a new 1-hour standard at a level of 100 ppb. EPA asserts that current scientific literature links short-term NO<sub>2</sub> exposures with an array of respiratory effects. EPA is also setting a new “form” for the standard which is the 3-year average of the 98th percentile of the annual distribution of daily maximum 1-hour average concentrations. This new 1-hour standard will supplement the current annual NAAQS of 53 ppb and is the first change to the NO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS since it was initially established nearly 40 years ago. As part of the rule, EPA is also establishing requirements for an NO<sub>2</sub> monitoring network at locations where maximum NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are expected to occur. The new standard becomes effective April 12, 2010. Area attainment designations for the new standard will occur over the next two years.

The largest sources of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions are on-road and non-road vehicles along with electrical generation facilities. EPA anticipates that NO<sub>x</sub> emissions will decrease substantially over the next 20 years largely as a result of ongoing mobile source emission standards. Annual average ambient NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, as measured at area-wide monitors, are currently in decline as they have decreased by more than 40% since 1980. Typical measured annual average NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations now range from approximately 10 to 20 ppb. Currently, all areas in the country attain the existing NO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS.