

**EPA Releases Final Risk and Exposure Assessment Report
for Secondary NO_x and SO_x NAAQS**

EPA has finalized the report of risk and exposure of the public to sulfur oxides (SO_x) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) for the Secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). (See 74 FR 48543; published September 23, 2009)

The purpose of the report is to “convey the approach taken to assess environmental exposures to ambient oxides of nitrogen and sulfur and to characterize associated public welfare risks, as well as to present the results of those assessments.”

Since NO_x, SO_x, and the products they transform into have environmental effects, the EPA conducted a joint review of the science, risks, and policies relevant to SO_x and NO_x exposure.

The draft scope and method plan document was released for public review and comment in March 2008. Comments were used to compile the First Draft, released for public review and comment in August 2008 and the Second Draft, released for public review and comment in June 2009.

The Final Draft can be obtained online at:

http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/no2so2sec/cr_rea.html

Topics within the review include the history of secondary SO₂ and NO₂ NAAQS; overall approach to linking the oxides to environmental standards; nationwide sources, concentrations, deposition; acidification; nutrient enrichment; and additional effects and case study results.