

A Short History of Ozone Transport Issues

- Early 1989** National Research Council begins independent assessment of ozone. Final report issued in 1991, concluding that NO_x plays a key role in ozone formation.
- November 1990** The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 established the northeast Ozone Transport Region (OTR). The Act requires "reasonably available control technology" (RACT) for many existing pollution sources in certain nonattainment areas and throughout the OTR. Also established was the [Ozone Transport Commission](#) (OTC) to coordinate the regional development of control plans for ground-level ozone in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States.
- January 1994** Pennsylvania adopts Chapter 129 NO_x RACT Phase I.
- September 1994** OTC develops a NO_x Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to further control major sources of NO_x within the region. Pennsylvania signs.
- March 1995** [Ozone Transport Assessment Group](#) (OTAG) is formed to address regional transport. Consisting of the 37 easternmost states and other interested stakeholders, its goal was to identify and recommend a strategy to reduce transported ozone and its precursors which, in combination with other measures, will enable attainment and maintenance of the national ambient ozone standard.
- May 1995** Governor Ridge calls for regional NO_x controls. All affected sources in Pennsylvania must install RACT.
- October 1995** Pennsylvania petitions EPA to remove 37 counties from the Ozone Transport Region.
- March 1996** Ozone Stakeholders meet and recommend local emission controls in the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas.
- June 1997** OTAG presents conclusions identifying NO_x from power plants as the best way to reduce ground-level ozone transport.
- July 1997** The NAAQS for ozone was revised from the 120 parts per billion of ozone over one hour standard to a standard of 80 parts per billion over 8 hours, using the 4th highest reading per year, averaged over three years.

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August 1997	Gov. Ridge and seven other northeastern states petition EPA to control NOx from power plants and other large combustion sources.
October 1997	EPA proposes regional NOx control regulations.
November 1997	Pennsylvania adopts rules implementing the OTC's NOx MOU (PDF) .
February 1998	Because EPA failed to act on the Petition within the statutory deadline Pennsylvania filed a lawsuit to force EPA to carry out it's responsibilities. EPA has agreed to a settlement of that suit which includes a schedule for action on the petitions received from Pennsylvania and the surrounding states.
May 1998	EPA proposes a regional trading system for NOx sources in a Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.
September 1998	EPA issued final Section 110 SIP Call (PDF) . (9/98)
May 1999	As an interim measure, the U.S. Court of Appeals issued a temporary stay of the deadline of the Section 110 SIP Call.
May 1999	Chapter 123 NOx RACT Phase II program begins, which includes emission caps and trading.
January 2000	EPA publishes Final Rule (PDF) on Section 126 petitions. (1/00)
March 2000	The U.S. Court of Appeals uphold EPA's authority to issue the Section 110 SIP Call.
July 2000	EQB adopts Chapter 145, Interstate Pollution Transport Reduction, NOx Budget Trading Program - Preamble (PDF) Regulations will begin 2003 and replace Chapter 123 NOx RACT Phase II
August 2000	Pennsylvania issues proposed plan (PDF) in response to EPA's Section 110 SIP Call.
October 2000	PA submits State Implementation Plan
August 2001	EPA Approves PA State Implementation Plan Revision