

Denver's air quality violates federal ozone standard

EPA's Region 8 office today announced it will not grant another extension date for Denver to meet EPA's 8-hour ozone standard. The result is a federal nonattainment designation for the Denver area.

In April 2004, EPA designated the Denver area (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson and parts of Larimer and Weld counties) as nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone standard, but deferred the effective date of the designation based on a commitment from the State of Colorado, the Regional Air Quality Council and others to implement ozone control measures sooner than required by the Clean Air Act. This commitment was contained in the Denver Early Action Compact. In return for this early action and for meeting certain milestones, EPA agreed to defer the effective date of the nonattainment designation under the 8-hour ozone standard.

The latest deferral date was November 20. Because the state's monitoring data shows a violation of the 8-hour ozone standard, EPA has not granted another extension, and the 8-hour ozone nonattainment designation for the Denver EAC area is effective today.