

U.S. EPA FACT SHEET

Direct Final Rule: Air Plan Approval; Nevada, Lake Tahoe; Second 10-Year Carbon Monoxide Limited Maintenance Plan

December 22, 2016

Summary of Action:

In today's action, the EPA is granting direct final approval of the State of Nevada's 2012 Limited Maintenance Plan (LMP), amended by the State in 2016, for the Nevada side Lake Tahoe carbon monoxide maintenance area, as a revision to the Nevada State Implementation Plan. The plan, as amended, addresses continued maintenance in the area for the carbon monoxide (CO) national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) until 2024. We are also approving an alternative monitoring strategy for the area. The EPA redesignated the area to attainment and approved the first maintenance plan in 2003. As part of this direct final action, we are also proposing to approve the plan. If we receive adverse comments on the direct final approval, we will withdraw it and proceed with the proposal. The proposal provides a 30-day public comment period.

Background:

The EPA set the CO NAAQS in 1971. The primary CO NAAQS are attained when ambient concentration design values do not exceed either the 1-hour 35 parts per million (ppm) standard or the 8-hour 9 ppm standard more than once per year. Under the Clean Air Amendments of 1990, the Lake Tahoe, Nevada area was designated as nonattainment and classified as a "not classified" CO area. This was because the area had been designated as nonattainment before November 15, 1990, the date of enactment, but had not violated the CO NAAQS in 1988 and 1989, prior to enactment. In 2003, the State requested that the EPA redesignate the area from nonattainment to attainment.

Along with the 2003 request, the State submitted a limited maintenance plan that demonstrated that the area would maintain the CO NAAQS for the first 10 years following our approval of the redesignation request. A limited maintenance plan is an option whereby an area's maintenance demonstration is considered to be satisfied for "not classified" areas if the monitoring data show the design value is at or below 7.65 parts per million (ppm), or 85% of the level of the 8-hour CO NAAQS. The EPA approved the State's redesignation request and 10-year LMP in 2003. The area has attained the CO NAAQS since 1979.

Under the CAA, a maintenance area must submit a second 10-year maintenance plan in the eighth year of their first maintenance plan. Accordingly, the State submitted the second maintenance plan on April 3, 2012. The State then amended the 2012 plan with a supplemental submittal on August 26, 2016. The EPA is approving this maintenance plan, as amended, which addresses maintenance of the CO NAAQS out to the year 2024.

Next Steps:

The *Federal Register* notices for this direct final approval will be published in approximately 2 to 3 weeks. The proposal provides a 30-day public comment period on this action.

More Information: <https://www3.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/nv.html>