

Expand Regulation 7 Applicability to the Entire Non-Attainment Area

Description of the issue

This strategy to reduce ambient ozone levels within the non-attainment area (NAA) considers expanding Colorado Air Quality Control Commission Regulation 7 applicability from sources in the 1-hour ozone non-attainment area (a.k.a. Denver metro area) to all ozone non-attainment areas –including the 8-hour ozone non-attainment area that expands the 1-hour ozone non-attainment area to include eastern Adams and Arapahoe counties and to much of Larimer and Weld counties.

This option may also clarify that in sections of regulation 7 that natural gas fired equipment is interpreted to include landfill gas and biomass fuel-fired equipment (see Regulation 7, Section XVII.B.).

Air Quality, Health And Welfare Benefit

While health benefits are not quantified here, it is understood that reducing direct emissions of VOCs will reduce air toxics and other criteria pollutants. This will reduce the incidence of human health impacts caused by pulmonary, cardiovascular, respiratory, and nervous system disease. Because ozone damages crops, forests, and other natural plant life, all would benefit if emissions are reduced. This strategy may also reduce emissions of methane, which contributes to climate change.

Program Costs

Costs associated with requiring controls for source categories and/or individual facilities have not yet been determined.

Implementation and Administration

This strategy has the potential to significantly increase the number of regulated sources, and has reporting, permitting, and/or compliance assurance impacts to the APCD.