

Comments to EPA on its Federal Implementation Plan Addressing Regional Ozone Transport for  
the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard

Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-0668

**From: Shyamala Rajan, PhD, National Director of Policy for Healthy Air, American Lung  
Association  
April 21, 2022**

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Federal Implementation Plan to address  
Regional Ozone Transport for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard.

I am Dr. Shyamala Rajan, National Director of Policy for Healthy Air for the American Lung Association. The Lung Association has a long-standing commitment to the principles embedded in the Clean Air Act, including the setting and enforcement of National Ambient Air Quality Standards for criteria pollutants to protect the health of ALL communities and vulnerable groups.

The proposed FIP for the attainment of the 2015 ozone NAAQS is both overdue and urgent.

- The FIP which aims to reduce NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from specific fossil fuel-fired powerplants in 25 states and specific large industrial polluters in 23 states is long overdue as the public in these NAA is yet to benefit from the stronger health-based ozone NAAQS promulgated 7 years ago.
- This FIP and its timing are the result of both the states and the EPA not following their respective statutory obligations under the CAA in submitting approvable SIPs and in acting on them. Setting NAAQS for pollutants becomes meaningless if states are not implementing them and EPA is not enforcing them. We recognize that the Agency is acting on the backlog of SIP submittals but it still needs expedited process improvements to stay current on its statutory obligations.
- This regulation to meet the 2015 ozone NAAQS is being proposed at a time when the EPA has just convened a CASAC panel to review these very standards. Potential revision of current standards, which the Lung Association has long called for, could bump up newer areas into nonattainment or into different class of nonattainment. So the EPA should seize this opportunity to make the controls as stringent as technologically feasible to ensure public health benefits especially given the time-intensive steps from promulgation to implementation of NAAQS.
- The emission reduction technologies proposed for the fossil-fuel fired EGUs are modular post-combustion add-on controls such as the Selective Catalytic Reduction or SCR. These are reasonably available control technologies that are reliably and widely used across the world. With the high stakes of public health at issue, we urge EPA to require the installation and optimal operation of emissions controls *whenever* the EGU is in operation, irrespective of its generation capacity.
- We consider EPA's proposed timelines for EGU emissions control requirements as unjustifiably long. Running existing controls by 2024 and installing (retrofitting) new controls by 2026 is not being "as expeditiously as practicable". In 2006, the Institute of Clean Air Companies published typical installation timelines for NO<sub>x</sub> emissions control technologies according to which the complete installation, startup, and optimization of SCR and SNCR technologies could be accomplished within one year.<sup>1</sup> The optimal running of existing controls would take a fraction of the time required for a new installation. We therefore ask EPA to require EGUs with existing emissions controls to optimally run them by the start of next ozone season, i.e. May 1, 2023, and to require the installation and running of new controls by May 1, 2024. This will ensure that the long-overdue health benefits from 2015 ozone NAAQS are realized as quickly as possible in communities most impacted by ozone pollution today. EPA needs to work in close collaboration and consultation with local and state air

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<sup>1</sup> Institute of Clean Air Companies (2006). Typical Installation Timelines for NO<sub>x</sub> Emissions Control Technologies on Industrial Sources [https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.icac.com/resource/resmgr/ICAC\\_NOx\\_Control\\_Installatio.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.icac.com/resource/resmgr/ICAC_NOx_Control_Installatio.pdf)

agencies to expedite the permitting and other steps in the process to ensure that these requirements are met by the deadlines.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this testimony.