

## Air Quality Status And Applicable State Implementation Plans

The central Puget Sound region is currently defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as being in nonattainment for three pollutants: carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) and particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>). Figure 1 shows the location of the nonattainment area boundaries.

The region has been classified by the EPA as "moderate plus" for CO. The classification means that the region has shown recent emissions levels or design values over 12.7 parts per million but less than 16.4 parts per million averaged over an 8-hour period. The NAAQS for CO is 9 parts per million averaged over an 8-hour period. The CO SIP, submitted to the EPA by the state Department of Ecology (Ecology) in January 1993, is currently being reviewed by the EPA for approval. A supplement to the CO SIP addressing the establishment of a mobile-source emissions budget, a revised attainment demonstration and contingency measures was approved by Ecology and submitted to the EPA in 1994. EPA approval of these revisions is pending.

The region is classified as "marginal" for O<sub>3</sub>. Marginal areas are defined as having emissions or design values between 0.121 and 0.138 parts per million for the second highest peak hour of a day during the calendar year. The design value for the Puget Sound ozone nonattainment area is 0.131 parts per million. The 1993 O<sub>3</sub> SIP is currently under review by the EPA.

Three areas in the region are designated as nonattainment for PM<sub>10</sub>. These areas are the Seattle Duwamish River industrial area, the Kent Valley industrial area and the Tacoma Tidelands area. All PM<sub>10</sub> SIPs have been approved by the EPA.

As required by the Clean Air Act, the Puget Sound region has individual SIPs for each pollutant and individual SIPs for each PM<sub>10</sub> nonattainment area resulting in one SIP for CO, one for O<sub>3</sub> and three for the PM<sub>10</sub> nonattainment areas. The conformity analysis of this TIP is based on both the 1982 CO and O<sub>3</sub> SIPs as well as the revised CO and O<sub>3</sub> SIPs submitted to the EPA in 1993 and 1994. The revised SIPs include additional elements as required by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. The region must test for conformity with all of the CO and O<sub>3</sub> SIPs until the EPA formally approves the 1993 and 1994 SIP revisions. Since all three of the 1991 PM<sub>10</sub> SIP submittals have been approved by the EPA, the conformity analysis is only required to apply to these plans.

Based on reductions in monitored pollution levels, the region has met the Clean Air Act requirements regarding applying for redesignation to "maintenance" status for all criteria pollutants. A maintenance plan is required by the Clean Air Act to be adopted by states and approved by the EPA before a region can be formally redesignated as attaining federal air quality standards. The Puget Sound Air Pollution Control Agency, in cooperation with the state Department of Ecology and the Puget Sound Regional Council, are currently developing 10-year maintenance plans for all pollutant nonattainment areas. The maintenance plans are expected to be completed and submitted to the EPA later this year. Approval of the plans by the EPA is expected in 1996. TIP conformity analyses and findings of conformity will remain a regular part of the transportation programming process during the ten-year maintenance period.