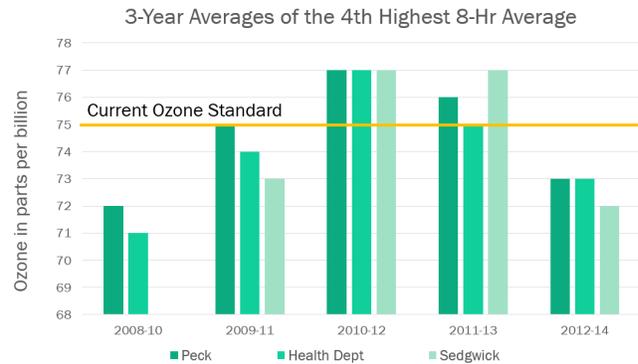


OZONE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY

Background

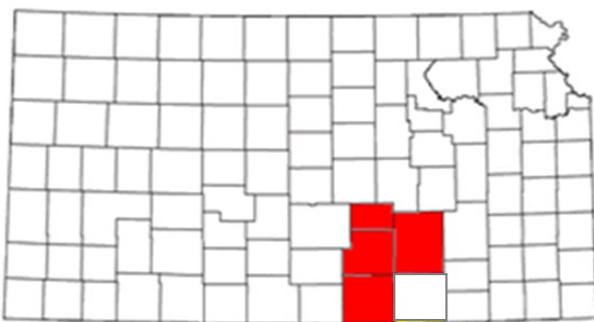
PROBLEM — South Central Kansas (SCK) is close to exceeding the national air quality limit for ozone. EPA's ozone standard is based on the 3-year average of the 4th highest monitor reading. If this number is above 75 parts per billion (ppb) the region is at risk of being designated *nonattainment*. A nonattainment designation would result in increased regulations on industry and the community.



REGIONAL ACTION — SCK enrolled in the voluntary EPA Ozone Advance (OA) program. The objective of OA is to implement ozone reduction efforts in order to avoid nonattainment designation. An effective OA program could help the region receive a more favorable classification should nonattainment occur, and better position the area to comply new regulations.

LOCAL ACTION — Local Ozone Action Plans (OAP) can be developed by public or private stakeholders. OAPs are organization specific implementation projects that reduce the emissions that create ozone. Successful OAPs will decrease ozone, help the region stay in attainment, demonstrate the region's commitment to air quality and may reduce regulatory impact.

Regional Impact



The affected region will likely be the **Wichita Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** – Butler, Harvey, Sedgwick & Sumner Counties.

Potential Costs of Nonattainment

- Increased permitting requirements for industry
- Increased cost of doing business
- Increased fuel costs
- Higher energy costs
- Loss of new business
- Road funding impacts
- Increased health care costs
- Decreased quality of life

OZONE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY

Benefits of Involvement

- Your community's voice in the process
- Early involvement gives you time to prepare for changes
- Increased partnership and resources
- Improved understanding of the issue
- Improved air quality and better health for your residents

Get Involved

Air Quality Improvement Task Force (AQITF) — This regional advisory group is made up of local governments, businesses and nonprofits. AQITF projects include regular contact with KDHE for up-to-date information, public education efforts, assisting with the development of Ozone Action Plans and policy development. **Appoint a member from your organization to serve on the AQITF and stay connected to the ozone issue and ongoing developments with the ozone standard and designation process.**

Ozone Alerts — City of Wichita's Air Quality Section reviews ozone conditions daily, during ozone season, April 1—October 31. When the forecast indicates that the next day has the potential for high ozone levels an Ozone Alert Day is declared. **By receiving and publicizing Ozone Alerts in your community you can educate and engage the public in ozone and air quality.**

Ozone Alert Response Plan— **Create a response plan for Ozone Alert Days at your organization and encourage other local organizations to do the same.** The more individual actions taken to reduce ozone in our region the more likely we will be able to stay in attainment.

Ozone Acton Plans— **Formalize policies, practices and incentives that reduce ozone throughout ozone season.** You can work with the AQITF to develop an Ozone Action Plan. Regional collaboration and participation will demonstrate to the EPA that SCK is proactively working towards better ozone levels and may result in less restrictive nonattainment impacts if our region does exceed the ozone standard.



Get Connected



- Sign up for the quarterly SCK Air Quality E-Newsletter by sending a newsletter request to agtaskforce@gmail.com
- Join the AQITF—email agtaskforce@gmail.com to receive meeting notices
- Sign up for Ozone Alerts at www.wichita.gov/ozone
- Find tools and examples for your own Ozone Alert Response Plan or Ozone Action Plan at www.agtaskforce.wordpress.com