Fact Sheet — Final Area Designations for the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone (Round 1)

ACTIONS

- On November 6, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued final designations for the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone for most areas in the United States (U.S.). Specifically, agency finds that most areas in the country meet the standards and is at this time designating these areas, including 2,646 counties, two tribal areas and five territories, "attainment/unclassifiable." This represents about 85 percent of the counties in the U.S.

- EPA is also designating three counties in the state of Washington as "unclassifiable", because there is not enough data to calculate a 3-year ozone design value.

- These final designations will take effect 60 days after the notice is published in the *Federal Register*.

- For the remaining areas, EPA is not extending the time provided under section 107 of the Clean Air Act but is not yet prepared to issue designations. The agency intends to address these areas in a separate future action.

BACKGROUND

- On October 1, 2015, EPA revised the 8-hour primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone by lowering the level from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to 70 ppb.

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to issue designations no later than 2 years after the agency sets a new National Ambient Air Quality Standard or revises an existing standard. The Administrator may extend this deadline up to 1 year, if there is insufficient information to designate areas by the 2-year deadline.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- For more information on the designation process for the ozone standards, go to EPA's Web site at https://www.epa.gov/ozone-designations.