

this rule, we have concluded that Illinois has fully met the requirements for redesignation found at sections 107(d)(3)(E) and 175A of the CAA for redesignation of an area from nonattainment to attainment for ozone. In addition, EPA believes that the State of Illinois has demonstrated that the area has attained, and that the criteria for redesignation have been met.

In the January 30, 2003 proposed rule at 68 FR 4847, EPA described the applicable criteria for redesignation to attainment. Specifically, section 107(d)(3)(E) allows for redesignation providing that: (1) the Administrator determines that the area has attained the applicable NAAQS; (2) the Administrator has fully approved the applicable implementation plan for the area under section 110(k); (3) the Administrator determines that the improvement in air quality is due to permanent and enforceable reductions in emissions resulting from implementation of the applicable SIP and applicable Federal air pollutant control regulations and other permanent and enforceable emission reductions; (4) the Administrator has fully approved a maintenance plan for the area as meeting the requirements of section 175A; and, (5) the state containing such area has met all requirements applicable to the area under section 110 and part D of the Act.

EPA has determined that the St. Louis area has attained the applicable NAAQS. EPA has fully approved the applicable implementation plan for the Illinois portion of the St. Louis area under section 110(k). EPA has determined that the improvement in air quality is due to permanent and enforceable reductions in emissions resulting from implementation of the applicable implementation plan and applicable Federal air pollutant control regulations and other permanent and enforceable reductions. EPA has fully approved a maintenance plan for the Illinois portion of the area as meeting the requirements of section 175A. Illinois has met all requirements applicable to the Metro-East St. Louis area under section 110 and part D of the Act.

By finding that the maintenance plan provides for maintenance of the NAAQS through 2014, EPA is hereby finding adequate and approving the 2014 VOC and NO_x MVEBs contained within the maintenance plan. The MVEB for NO_x in the Metro-East St. Louis area is 18.72 tons per ozone season weekday. The MVEB for VOC in the Metro-East St. Louis area is 10.13 tons per ozone season weekday.

The rationale for these findings is as stated in this rulemaking and the January 30, 2003 proposed rule found at 68 FR 4847.

IV. What Are the Effects of These Actions?

In a separate rule published in today's **Federal Register**, EPA has determined that the St. Louis area attained the 1-hour ozone standard and that certain attainment demonstration requirements (section 172(c)(1) of the Act) along with certain other related requirements of part D of title I of the Act, specifically the section 172(c)(9) contingency measure requirement (measures needed to mitigate a state's failure to achieve reasonable further progress toward, and attainment of, a NAAQS), the section 182 attainment demonstration and ROP requirements, and the section 182(j) multi-state attainment demonstration requirement, are not applicable to the St. Louis area. EPA's determination that the St. Louis area has met the one-hour ozone standard relieves Illinois and Missouri from the obligation to meet certain additional Clean Air Act requirements, which apply to areas not attaining that standard.

EPA notes that the area is likely to be designated nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone standard, and would be subject to any additional requirements as a result of such designation. EPA also notes that it is not revoking the one-hour standard for the St. Louis area.

Approval of the Illinois redesignation request changes the official designation for the one-hour ozone NAAQS found at 40 CFR part 81 for the Illinois portion of the St. Louis area, including Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair Counties, from nonattainment to attainment. It also incorporates into the Illinois SIP a plan for maintaining the one-hour ozone NAAQS through 2014. The plan includes contingency measures to remedy any future violations of the one-hour ozone NAAQS, and includes VOC and NO_x MVEBs for 2014 for the Illinois portion of the St. Louis area.

Approval of an exemption from NO_x RACT requirements for the Metro-East St. Louis area means that Illinois is no longer obligated by the Clean Air Act to adopt and submit NO_x RACT regulations for applicable NO_x stationary sources. This also means that the Illinois SIP can be judged to be complete despite the lack of such regulations in the Metro-East St. Louis area.

V. What Comments Did We Receive and What Are Our Responses?

We received 5 letters containing comments regarding the January 30,

2003 proposed rule. Four of the letters supported the proposed rulemaking action. Two of the four letters in support of the proposed rulemaking action raised issues to which we are responding in this section. One of the five letters contained adverse comments and opposed the proposed rulemaking actions. A summary of the comments and EPA's responses to them are provided below. This discussion addresses comments relating to the St. Louis area as a whole and comments specifically relating to the Illinois portion of the area. Comments relating specifically to the Missouri portion of the area are addressed in a separate final rule for Missouri also published today.

A. Comments Related to Meeting the Criteria for Redesignation to Attainment

Comment 1: The St. Louis area has failed to meet any of the five criteria specified in section 107(d)(3)(E) of the CAA for redesignation to attainment.

Response 1: EPA's determination that the St. Louis area has attained the one-hour ozone standard is contained in a separate rule published in today's **Federal Register**. Further, EPA has found that the area has met all five of the criteria specified in section 107(d)(3)(E) of the CAA for redesignation to attainment. Below are specific comments and responses raised by the commenter regarding each criterion. It should be noted that, although the commenter generally directed comments at issues for both States, Illinois and Missouri, this final rulemaking focuses on the Illinois portion of St. Louis ozone nonattainment area. To that extent, most responses given here focus on that portion of the nonattainment area. For our responses relative to the Missouri portion of the area, please refer to the separate final rulemakings for the State of Missouri also published in today's **Federal Register**.

B. Comments Related to Criterion 1: The Area Must Be Attaining the 1-Hour Ozone NAAQS

Comment 2: Monitoring data are not representative of air quality conditions. Monitoring data collected during the Labor Day weekend in 2002 are "hopelessly contaminated" due to voluntary emission reductions undertaken by industry and others.

Response 2: See the response to comment 2 in the separate rule in today's **Federal Register** regarding the determination of attainment for the St. Louis area. See also the responses to comments 18 and 19 below.

Comment 3: Monitored data run directly counter to air quality modeling.