

that your comments are submitted within the specified comment period. Comments received after the close of the comment period will be marked "late." The EPA is not required to consider these late comments.

1. *Electronically.* If you submit an electronic comment as prescribed below, EPA recommends that you include your name, mailing address, and an e-mail address or other contact information in the body of your comment. Also include this contact information on the outside of any disk or CD ROM you submit, and in any cover letter accompanying the disk or CD ROM. This ensures that you can be identified as the submitter of the comment and allows EPA to contact you in case EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties or needs further information on the substance of your comment. The EPA's policy is that EPA will not edit your comment, and any identifying or contact information provided in the body of a comment will be included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment.

i. *EPA Dockets.* Your use of EPA's electronic public docket to submit comments to EPA electronically is EPA's preferred method for receiving comments. Go directly to EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket>, and follow the online instructions for submitting comments. To access EPA's electronic public docket from the EPA Internet Home Page, select "Information Sources," "Dockets," and "EPA Dockets." Once in the system, select "search," and then key in Docket ID No. OAR-2003-0090. The system is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity, e-mail address, or other contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment.

ii. *E-mail.* Comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to A-and-R-Docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket ID No. OAR-2003-0090. In addition, please send a copy of e-mail comments to cole.david@epa.gov. In contrast to EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system is not an "anonymous access" system. If you send an e-mail comment directly to the Docket without going through EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system automatically captures your e-mail address. The E-mail addresses that are automatically captured by EPA's e-mail system are included as part of the

comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket.

iii. *Disk or CD ROM.* You may submit comments on a disk or CD ROM that you mail to the mailing address identified in unit I.B.2 below. These electronic submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect or ASCII file format. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

2. *By Mail.* Send your comments to: Air and Radiation Docket, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code: 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460, Attention Docket ID No. OAR 2003-0090. In addition, please send a copy of your comments to: David Cole, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Mail Code: C539-02, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711.

3. *By Hand Delivery or Courier.* Deliver your comments to: Air and Radiation Docket, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room B102, Washington, DC 20004, Attention Docket ID No. OAR 2003-0090. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation as identified in unit I.A.1. Please also deliver a copy of your comments to: David Cole, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, 109 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

4. *By Facsimile.* Fax your comments to: 202-566-1741, Attention Docket ID No. OAR 2003-0090; and to: 919-541-0824, Attention: David Cole.

C. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Comments for EPA?

You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your comments:

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.
2. Describe any assumptions that you used.
3. Provide any technical information and/or data you used that support your views.
4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at your estimate.
5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
6. Offer alternatives.
7. Make sure to submit your comments by the comment period deadline identified.
8. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate docket identification number in the subject line on the first page of your response. It would also be helpful if you provided

the name, date, and **Federal Register** citation related to your comments.

Outline

- II. What are the health concerns addressed by the 8-hour ozone standard?
- III. What is the background on implementation of the 8-hour ozone standard?
- IV. What actions is EPA taking to designate areas for the 8-hour ozone standard?
 - A. What is EPA's schedule for designating areas for the 8-hour ozone standard?
 - B. What action is EPA taking to defer the effective date of the nonattainment designation for Early Action Compact areas?
- V. What is an Early Action Compact, and what are compact areas required to do?
 - A. Why was the compact program developed?
 - B. What early action protocol did Texas submit to EPA?
 - C. What are compact areas required to do?
- VI. What areas are participating in the Early Action Compact program?
 - A. What progress are compact areas making toward completing their milestones?
 - B. How will EPA address compact areas attaining the 8-hour ozone standard in April 2004?
 - C. What is the air quality of the compact areas?
- VII. What are the impacts of this action?
 - A. What are the regulatory effects of this action?
 - B. What are the consequences of compacts for local areas?
- VIII. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews
 - A. Executive Order 12866: Regulatory Planning and Review
 - B. Paperwork Reduction Act
 - C. Regulatory Flexibility Act
 - D. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act
 - E. Executive Order 13132: Federalism
 - F. Executive Order 13175: Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments
 - G. Executive Order 13045: Protection of Children from Environmental Health and Safety Risks
 - H. Executive Order 13211: Actions That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use
 - I. National Technology Transfer Advancement Act
 - J. Executive Order 12898: Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations

II. What Are the Health Concerns Addressed by the 8-Hour Ozone Standard?

Ground-level ozone pollution is formed by the reaction of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight. These two pollutants, often referred to as ozone precursors, are emitted by many types of pollution sources, including on-road and off-road motor vehicles and engines, power plants and industrial facilities, and smaller "area" sources.