



# **Technical Information Meeting: Update on Planning Activities for the Houston-Galveston- Brazoria (HGB) Ozone Nonattainment Areas**

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# Preview

- 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) Status
- 2015 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS Status

# 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS

- Standard is 0.075 parts per million (ppm).
  - Design values of 75 parts per billion (ppb) or less are attainment.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized designations on May 21, 2012.
  - Designations were effective by July 20, 2012.
- HGB nonattainment area includes Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties.
  - Initial marginal nonattainment effective July 20, 2012.
  - Area reclassified to moderate, effective December 14, 2016.

# 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS Serious Reclassifications

- HGB moderate nonattainment area did not attain by the end of 2017.
- The EPA reclassified the HGB nonattainment area to serious on August 23, 2019.
  - The reclassifications became effective September 23, 2019.
  - The area is currently subject to major source thresholds of 50 tons per year (tpy) and new source review (NSR) offset ratios of 1.2:1.
- Serious area attainment date was July 20, 2021, with a 2020 attainment year.
- Serious classification state implementation plan (SIP) revisions were due to EPA by August 3, 2020.

# 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS Serious Classification SIP and Rule Revisions

- SIP and Rule revisions were adopted on March 4, 2020.
  - HGB Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) SIP revision
    - EPA published partial approval of RFP SIP revision on May 10, 2021.
  - Attainment Demonstration SIP revision
    - Pending EPA action.
- Rules to lower the major source emissions threshold for applicable counties and make other technical changes associated with the serious classification were also adopted.

# Additional 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS Submittals

- On March 25, 2021, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) submitted a Milestone Compliance Demonstration for the 2020 Calendar Year to meet RFP requirements for the HGB serious nonattainment area.
  - The EPA sent a letter of adequacy on July 1, 2021.
- On June 30, 2021, the commission adopted a rulemaking to address the EPA's Oil and Natural Gas Control Techniques Guidelines (CTG).
  - Implements reasonably available control technology for all volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions sources in the EPA's CTG in the HGB 2008 ozone nonattainment area.



# HGB 4th High Values

2017	2018	2019	2019 Design Value (ppb)
74	88	81	81

2018	2019	2020	2020 Design Value
88	81	68	79

2019	2020	2021	2021 Design Value
80	73	78	77

\*The 4th high of the monitor with the highest DV (Bayland Park) was 78 ppb.

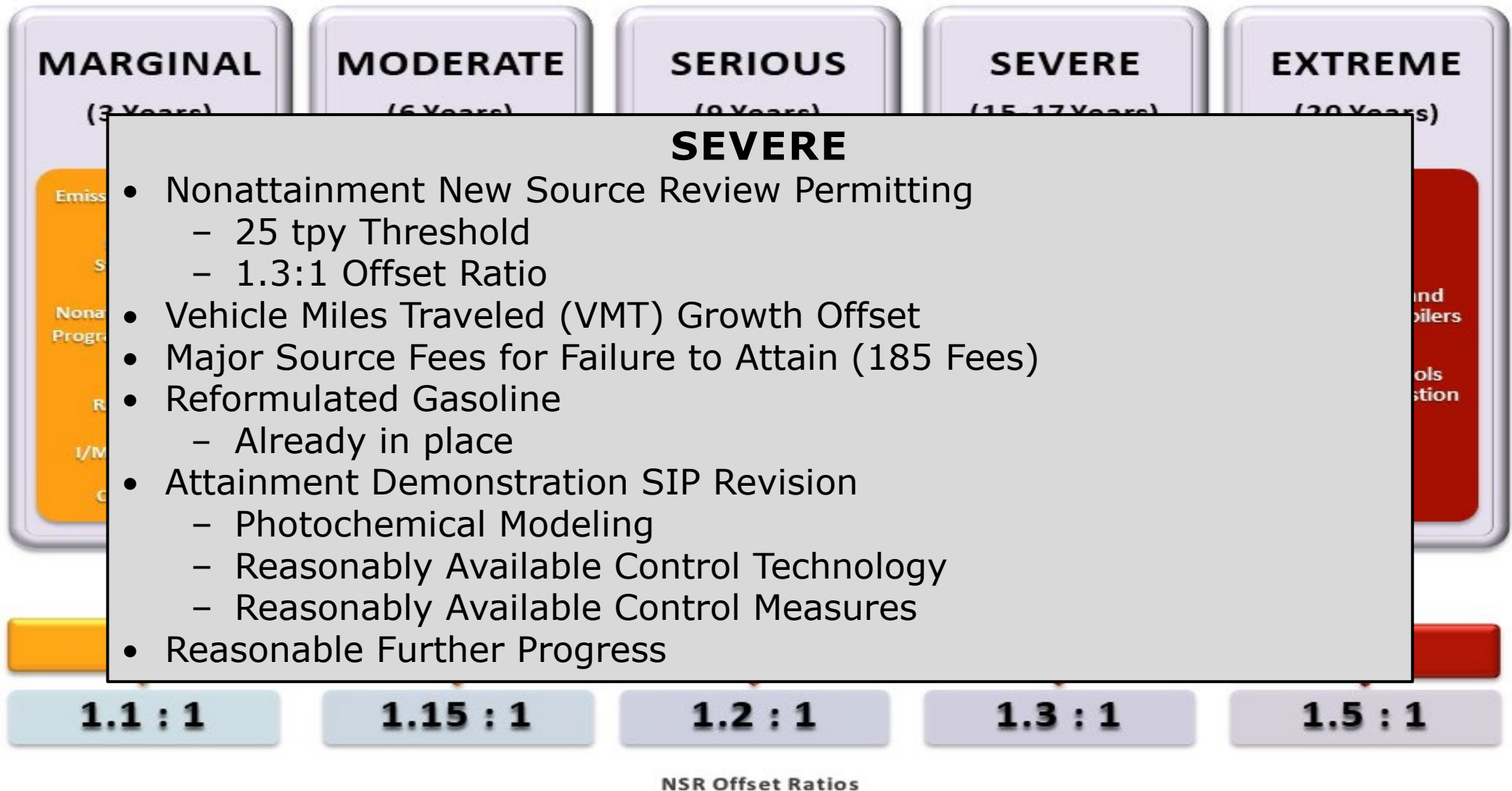
\*The highest 4th high in 2021 was 83 ppb (Croquet)

# What's Next for HGB 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone Serious Nonattainment Area?

- HGB serious nonattainment area did not attain by the end of 2020.
  - On April 6, 2021 the TCEQ submitted a one-year attainment date extension request.
- On April 13, 2022, the EPA proposed to reclassify the HGB area to severe and deny the extension request.
  - The EPA is proposing 18 months after reclassification to submit federally required severe classification SIP revisions.
  - Attainment would be required by the end of 2026 to meet a July 20, 2027 attainment date.



# SIP Requirements for Ozone Nonattainment Areas



# 2015 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS Initial Nonattainment Designations

- Standard is 0.070 ppm.
  - Design values of 70 ppb or less are attainment.
- Six-county HGB marginal nonattainment area includes:
  - Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, and Montgomery Counties (Liberty and Waller Counties removed).
  - Area designation was effective on August 3, 2018.

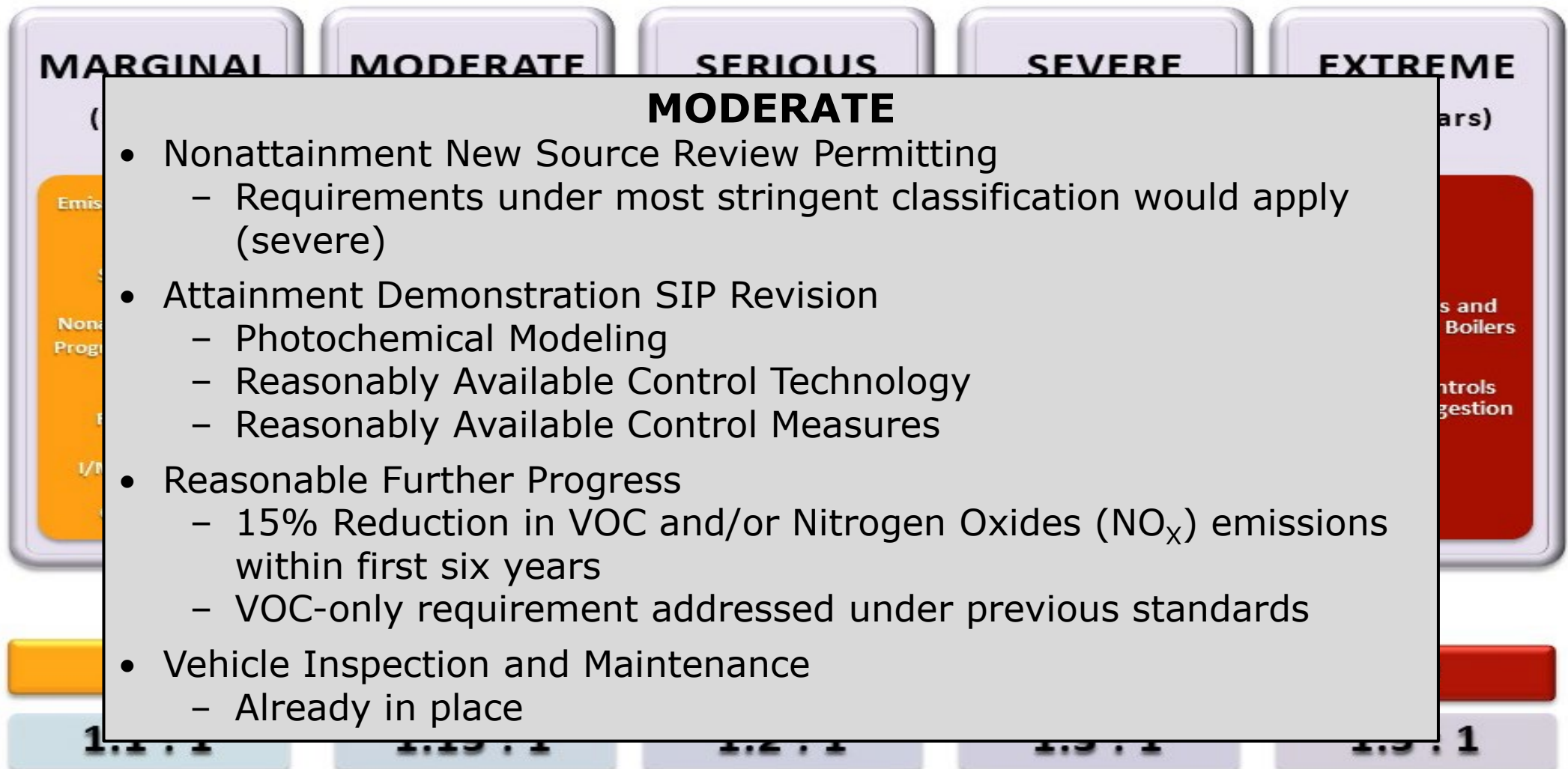
# 2015 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS Emissions Inventory (EI) SIP Revision

- Due two years after the effective date of designations.
- HGB EI SIP revision due by August 3, 2020.
- EI SIP revision combined with Dallas/Fort Worth and Bexar County areas:
  - Establishes 2017 base year inventory;
  - Submitted to the EPA on June 24, 2020; and
  - The EPA published final approval on June 29, 2021.

# What's Next for HGB 2015 Eight-Hour Ozone Marginal Nonattainment Area?

- The attainment year for 2015 eight-hour ozone marginal nonattainment areas was 2020.
  - The HGB marginal area did not attain by the end of 2020.
- On April 13, 2022, the EPA proposed to reclassify HGB to moderate nonattainment.
  - The EPA proposed a January 1, 2023 deadline to submit federally required moderate classification SIP revisions.
  - Attainment would be required by the end of 2023 to meet an August 3, 2024 attainment date.

# SIP Requirements for Ozone Nonattainment Areas



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# Questions?

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