



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

June 30, 2003

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Signatories to the Early Action Compact for Ozone for the Denver Metropolitan Area**

**Regional Air Quality Council**

Jim Scherer, Chairman, and members of the Board

**Air Quality Control Commission**

Robert E. Brady, Jr., Chairman, and members of the Commission

**Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment**

Douglas H. Benevento, Executive Director

**Colorado Department of Transportation**

Thomas Norton, Executive Director

**Denver Regional Council of Governments**

Melanie Worley, Chairman

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8**

Robert E. Roberts, Regional Administrator

**RE: June 30, 2003 Progress Report**

In accordance with terms of the Early Action Compact for Ozone for the Denver Metropolitan Area, please find attached a report that documents progress in stakeholder development, identification of potential local control measures, public outreach and modeling/technical planning activities. This report meets the June 30, 2003 milestone specified in the Compact.

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Ken Lloyd, Executive Director  
Regional Air Quality Council

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Margie Perkins, Director  
Air Pollution Control Division

cc: Doug Lempke, Air Quality Control Commission  
Steve Arnold, Air Pollution Control Division  
Mike Silverstein, Air Pollution Control Division  
George Gerstle, Colorado Department of Transportation  
Lizzie Kemp, Colorado Department of Transportation  
Bill Vidal, Denver Regional Council of Governments  
Jeff May, Denver Regional Council of Governments  
Dick Long, EPA Region 8  
Larry Svoboda, EPA Region 8  
Tim Russ, EPA Region 8

**Ozone Early Action Compact**  
**Denver Metro Area**  
**June 30, 2003 Progress Report**  
June 27, 2003

## **Introduction**

In December 2002 state and local agencies in the Denver area entered into an Ozone Early Action Compact (EAC) with EPA. The Compact is a Memorandum of Agreement between the Regional Air Quality Council, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Air Quality Control Commission, the Denver Regional Council of Governments, the Colorado Department of Transportation, and EPA Region 8.

The Compact entails a commitment to develop and implement an Ozone Action Plan in return for deferring any potential nonattainment designation for the EPA's 8-hour ozone standard. The Compact outlines several planning milestones (including progress reports every 6 months) that must be met, culminating in attainment of the 8-hour standard by December 2007. This June 30, 2003 Progress Report has been prepared according to EPA's April 4<sup>th</sup> guidance document for Early Action Compacts.

## **Stakeholder Process Development**

The Denver Metro region has an established air quality planning process, which has been utilized to facilitate the stakeholder process. The various stakeholder groups in this process are the signatories to the Early Action Compact with the overall responsibility of shaping policy and providing technical, organizational and funding support to complete the work; an all-comers work group of interested parties who provide input on policy issues and evaluation and selection of emission reduction measures; and, a Modeling Review Panel of invited technical experts recommended by the signatories, industry, environmental groups and academia to provide technical oversight of the modeling effort.

The signatories to the EAC and their specific responsibilities are as follows:

- \$ Regional Air Quality Council - development of the Ozone Action Plan, and project management of the photochemical modeling effort.
- \$ Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment - develop RFP for the photochemical modeling effort; provide technical input to the process including inventory development, modeling and control strategy evaluation; and participation in the EAC planning process.
- \$ Colorado Department of Transportation - funding of the photochemical effort and participation in the EAC planning process.
- \$ Denver Regional Council of Governments - funding of the photochemical effort; development of transportation network; and demographic data and participation in the EAC planning process.
- \$ Air Quality Control Commission - review and approve the Ozone Action Plan through an established public hearing process prior to submission to the legislature and governor; provide input throughout the development of the Ozone Action Plan.
- \$ Environmental Protection Agency - provide guidance and interpretation of requirements throughout the process. Approve Ozone Action Plan as a SIP revision.

Stakeholder meetings held since January 1, 2003 include the following:

- \$ A team of technical staff members representing the signatories met during February and mid-March to review the Request for Proposal for Photochemical Dispersion Modeling prepared by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and to interview and select the modeling teams that responded to the RFP.
- \$ The Regional Air Quality Council, lead air quality planning agency for the seven county Denver Metro area, addressed the EAC, photochemical modeling effort and strategy development at their regular meetings in April and June.
- \$ The Air Quality Control Commission, responsible for air quality regulation development and SIP approval, addressed the EAC during a noticed public hearing at their regular April meeting and strategy development in a joint meeting with the RAQC board in June.
- \$ The RAQC sponsored stakeholder workgroup meetings for interested parties on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss and receive input on policy issues and emissions reduction measures. These meetings are open to all interested parties. Announcements were e-mailed to a RAQC list of over 100 people and/or organizations and placed on the RAQC website. Approximately 30-35 people attended the meetings representing various industry and fuel organizations, environmental groups and agencies, academia, transportation planning and signatory staff. List of attendees attached.
- \$ The RAQC and AQCC staff met with the Colorado Petroleum Association at their request to discuss the EAC process.
- \$ The Modeling Review Panel, co-chaired by the executive director of the RAQC and an AQCC commissioner, met on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to review the Modeling Protocol developed by the contractor, including model, domain and episode selection.

### **Potential Strategies for Consideration - June 16, 2003 Report**

The June 16<sup>th</sup> report was provided to the EPA, and to the other signatories, and posted on the RAQC website. The report provides a detailed view of the local planning process and potential strategies.

### **Public Outreach**

Presentations have been made at the AQCC and RAQC meetings noted above which are open, public meetings. Meetings are announced with agenda on the respective websites of both organizations. The RAQC has established an EAC website which covers all aspects of the process. The Denver Post wrote an article and an editorial addressing the potential strategies for consideration presented in the June 16<sup>th</sup> report.

Additionally, the RAQC provides significant public outreach as part of the Summer Ozone Program, which includes issuing ozone alerts, conducting car care clinics and gas cap replacement fairs, voluntary RVP reduction through a partnership with petroleum refining industry, targeted PSAs on local radio and distribution of flyers, brochures and information on local cable access television.

### **Modeling/Technical Planning**

The Regional Air Quality Council and the Air Pollution Control Division of the CDPHE developed an RFP, which was sent to six qualified modeling teams. Two proposals were received and

reviewed by representatives of the signatories. Both proposals were considered acceptable and the team of Environ-Alpine Geophysics was chosen to do the work.

The contractor developed the Modeling Protocol, a roadmap for performing the modeling, at the end of May, including model, geographic domain and episode selection. The meteorological modeling is anticipated to be completed by the end of June. The Air Pollution Control Division of the CDPHE is preparing inventories for transmittal to the modeling contractor by the end of June. Base case (2002) modeling is scheduled for the end of August and the future base case (2007) is scheduled for completion by the end of September. Modeling of control strategies, if needed, is scheduled for the October-December time frame.

A Modeling Review Panel was established to provide technical review of the modeling process. As noted above, the Panel has met once and provided comments and suggestions. A second meeting is scheduled for the end of August to review the base case modeling. The Panel will review products (meteorological report, inventory) as received in the interim and provide comments to the contractor. A list of Modeling Review Panel members and attendees at the meeting is attached.