

San Juan County, New Mexico Early Action Compact Progress Report December 2005

Overview

This document reports on the progress made between June 2005 and December 2005 on the implementation of the San Juan County Clean Air Action Plan (CAAP) and related projects. The CAAP is the main deliverable from the Early Action Compact (EAC) for ozone. The signatories to the EAC, including the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), are committed to ensuring that northwestern New Mexico remains in attainment of the 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). The CAAP includes a public outreach campaign and a voluntary program for emissions controls, both of which are described below.

State Implementation Plan

The NMED successfully submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision for an Early Action Compact for San Juan County. EPA approved this SIP revision on August 17, 2005 (70 FR 48285). The revisions approved by EPA incorporated the CAAP and the photochemical modeling conducted in support of the attainment demonstration for the 8-hour ozone standard within the San Juan County EAC area. These actions will strengthen the SIP in accordance with the requirements of sections 110 and 116 of the Federal Clean Air Act, and will result in emission reductions needed to help ensure continued attainment and maintenance for the 8-hour NAAQS for ozone.

Public Outreach Since June 2005

Public outreach in San Juan County is an ongoing process that includes the use of websites, public service announcements and educational outreach materials for children. Public outreach to date includes the distribution of the Tripper, Bear and the Air ozone activity books to local schools, museums, and national parks in San Juan County and the surrounding vicinity

In addition, the following NMED web sites contain outreach and educational materials, updated as they become available, related to the Clean Air Action Plan, The Four Corners Air Quality Task Force and the final approval of the SIP revision:

- <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/4C/index.html>,
- <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/projects/Ozone.html>,
- <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/ozonetf/index.html>, and
- <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/kids/index.html>

Voluntary Program

The voluntary program for emissions controls, Voluntary Innovative Strategies for Today's Air Standards (VISTAS), recognizes companies and organizations for voluntarily reducing emissions of ozone precursors and greenhouse gases in northwestern New Mexico, including San Juan County. To participate, companies each sign a voluntary agreement and then submit an implementation plan and annual reports to NMED. Participating companies are recognized for their reductions. Still in its initial stages, the program so far has one participating company. The program website is available at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/projects/SJV/index.html>. Future plans include expanding and promoting the VISTAS program to encourage more participation.

Funding for the VISTAS program has been acquired in the form of a grant. These funds will strengthen the VISTAS program to create a more well-known and quantifiable program. With the grant funds, NMED will be able to contract with a consultant to develop a marketing campaign strategy and plan for the VISTAS program. In addition, the consultant would be contracted to assist NMED with developing outreach materials, including an incentive program for companies who participate in the program.

Related Projects

The Four Corners Air Quality Task Force is a multi-entity effort being formed to look at air quality issues in the Four Corners region. It will develop a broad list of options for improving air quality in the region. Membership includes community members, interest groups, local governments, industry, tribes, and state and federal agencies. The Task Force will work over a two-year period, making its final report available by December 2007. The Task Force website is located at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/4C/>. The initial Task Force meeting was held November 2, 2005. The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2006 in Durango, Colorado.

The New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH), in collaboration with the University of New Mexico, conducted a study on the association between high levels of ozone pollution and emergency department and urgent care visits for asthma that occurred from 2000 through 2003 in the Farmington, New Mexico area. NMDOH and the University of New Mexico presented the results of the study at a public meeting on September 15, 2005.

Next Steps

The Air Quality Bureau is in the process of filling a planning position in the Farmington, New Mexico office. The new employee will begin work in January 2006. The purpose of this position is to assist in the coordination of the Four Corners Air Quality Task Force and aid in public outreach, especially on issues of concern dealing with air quality in the San Juan Basin. In addition, this individual will lead development of air quality initiatives to improve air quality in northwestern New Mexico; lead the development of an inventory of air pollution sources in the San Juan Basin; and develop non-SIP and SIP related planning documents, policies, and regulations.

Early Action Compacts December Progress Summary Table

A. Control Measure	B. Summary Description of Measure	C. Program/Measure Status	D. Specific Implementation Date	E. VOC Reduction	F. NOx Reduction	G. Resources (FTE's, \$\$)	H. Additional Information
4 San Juan Co., NM							
Public outreach website: including health-related info developed by EPA; basic ozone info; ozone monitoring for the 2 sites in San Juan County; public outreach materials for children; related ozone studies; upcoming meetings, press releases and PSAs.	See attached Progress Report.	Ongoing.	Website is completed; outreach is ongoing.			0.33 FTE	
Education outreach-school: ozone education workbook and poster for 10-12 yr olds describing ozone and how to reduce ozone pollution locally.	See attached Progress Report.	Ongoing.	Began in 2004 and continues through 2006			0.33 FTE	
The New Mexico Environment Department successfully submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision, including the Clean Air Action Plan, by the end of 2004.	See attached Progress Report.	EPA approved the SIP revision for San Juan County on August 17, 2005 (70 FR 48285). http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/ozonetf/SJC%20EAC%20Final%20Approval.pdf	8/17/2005				
Voluntary program-oil/gas production--"VISTAS" (Voluntary Innovative Strategies for Today's Air Standards) see http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/projects/SJV/index.html for details	See attached Progress Report.	Ongoing.	Implemented			0.33 FTE	
Comments: "VISTAS" is a pilot program, modeled after EPA's Natural Gas STAR program and part of the Clean Air Action Plan for the San Juan County EAC. Purpose is to identify, promote and implement cost-effective technologies and Best Management Practices to reduce NOx and VOCs. VISTAS is open to companies in the oil & gas exploration and production industries in San Juan, Rio Arriba, and Sandoval Counties. The program has one partner to date, Burlington Resources, San Juan Division. Additional partners may join the program prior to final rulemaking.							