



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY - REGION 9

FACT SHEET

**FINAL NOTICE APPROVING THE CARBON MONOXIDE
MAINTENANCE PLAN, REDESIGNATION REQUEST AND
WINTERTIME GASOLINE RULE CHANGES FOR THE
LAS VEGAS CARBON MONOXIDE NONATTAINMENT AREA**

September 16, 2010

Today's Action

- Communities in Las Vegas are breathing easier because federal requirements for fuels and engines have resulted in cleaner burning vehicles. EPA is approving Nevada's request to redesignate the Las Vegas Valley as an area that is attaining the federal health-based standard for carbon monoxide (CO). EPA is also approving Nevada's plan to continue to attain the CO standard (the maintenance plan).
- In 2008, the State of Nevada submitted the Las Vegas Valley CO redesignation request and maintenance plan. In March of 2010, the State of Nevada submitted a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision, including the suspension of the local wintertime gasoline rule, and the relaxation of the state wintertime gasoline rule. In August of 2010, the State of Nevada submitted the final SIP revision, a commitment to reinstate the state wintertime gasoline rule as a contingency measure, if needed. EPA is approving these SIP revisions today.

Las Vegas' Air Quality

- In recognition of the long record of clean air (for CO), it is a great success story to redesignate the Las Vegas Valley to a CO attainment area. The Las Vegas Valley is the last remaining nonattainment area before the carbon monoxide standard is revised.
- Las Vegas was designated as a CO nonattainment area in 1978. In response to this nonattainment status, Clark County and the State of Nevada adopted and implemented new air quality plans and control measures, including state and local wintertime gasoline fuel requirements.

- These measures helped reduce the number of exceedances of the CO standard from over 40 each year in the mid-1980s to less than 5 by the mid-1990s. The last recorded exceedances of the CO air quality standard occurred in 1998.

Background: Carbon Monoxide's Impact on Public Health

- Carbon monoxide is a threat to human health and the environment. Exposure to elevated CO levels can cause harmful health effects by reducing oxygen delivery to the body's organs (like the heart and brain) and tissues and is associated with impairment of visual perception, work capacity, manual dexterity, and learning ability, and with illness and death for those who already suffer from cardiovascular disease, particularly angina or peripheral vascular disease.

Further Information

- The published finding and additional information regarding this action can be found on our website at: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/air>.
- For more information, please call Amy Zimpfer, Associate Director, Air Division, U.S. EPA Region 9 at (415) 947-4146 or Karina O'Connor, Air Quality Planner, Air Division, U.S. EPA Region 9 at (775) 833-1276.