

Predecisional Staff Draft
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v. What ambient monitoring requirements will apply under the 8-hr ozone NAAQS?

Ozone monitoring data play an important role in designations, control strategy development, and related implementation activities. At present, the ambient monitoring requirements are listed in 40 CFR Part 58.

These existing ozone monitoring requirements will be modified as part of the National Air Monitoring Strategy. These changes are being undertaken in a separate rulemaking effort. The national strategy introduces NCore (national core monitoring sites) as a replacement for traditional NAMS/SLAMS monitoring currently codified at 40 CFR Part 58. Part of the NCore network will include the existing ozone monitoring sites that currently support the NAAQS related activities. The number and location of these sites will be very similar to the current network. The regulatory modifications are expected to include ozone monitoring requirements based upon the population of an area and its historical/forecasted ozone air quality values.

In addition, we anticipate that we will include a requirement for measuring multiple air pollutants at select locations. NCore sites are expected to include high-sensitivity nitrogen oxide (NO) and reactive nitrogen (NO_y) measurements at locations across the nation to support the tracking of national emission strategy efforts such as the NO_x SIP call and the proposed Clear Skies Act.

Each State, Local, and Tribal air monitoring agency is being asked to assess the adequacy of their air pollution monitoring networks, including those sites that measure ozone. EPA will work with these agencies to develop network plans, and approve of all network designs. On a local basis, there will be some relocations, additions and removal of ozone sites as a result regional network assessments.

The CAA requires that ozone precursor monitoring be conducted in any 1-hour ozone nonattainment area classified as serious, severe, or extreme. The statutory requirements were included in 40 CFR part 58 in 1994 as the Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations (PAMS) program. Areas that would be designated under the 8-hour ozone NaAQs are not directly addressed in 40 CFR part 58's language on ozone precursor monitoring.

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PAMS monitoring will be retained in areas currently designated as 1-hour ozone serious, severe, and extreme nonattainment areas. The monitoring strategy regulation revisions will consider the possibility of reducing some of the sampling schedules. EPA also intends to promote the use of individually designed PAMS networks to address the very specific ozone and ozone precursor data needs in PAMS areas.