

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #13-E: HRPDC RESPONSE TO EPA OZONE CONCERN

SUBJECT:

The EPA has proposed changes to the National Standard for Ozone.

BACKGROUND:

On November 25, 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed strengthening the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone to a level within the range of 0.065 to 0.070 parts per million (ppm). The EPA is also proposing changes to the ozone monitoring seasons, the Federal Reference Method for monitoring ozone in the ambient air, Federal Equivalent Method procedures for testing, and the Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations network. The EPA is under court order to finalize the new standard by October 1, 2015.

The current NAAQS for ground-level ozone is the 2008 standard (0.075 ppm). The value compared against the standard is the annual, fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour concentration, averaged over three years. The Hampton Roads area has been designated an attainment area for the current standard.

The previous NAAQS for ground-level ozone was the 1997 standard (0.08 ppm). The value compared against the standard was the annual, fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour concentration, averaged over three years. The Hampton Roads area was designated a maintenance area for the 1997 standard in 2007. However, the EPA has now revoked the 1997 standard.

This Item and Attachment were discussed under Workshop Agenda Item# 8.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Chair to transmit a letter to the EPA.