
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



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ARD-61

2020

Attainment Designations

Overview

“Attainment status” is a federal designation of whether or not air quality within a state, or an area therein, meets the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). If an area is designated as “nonattainment,” states must develop a State Implementation Plan (SIP) that details the path to attainment and maintenance of NAAQS. In the past, portions of New Hampshire have been designated nonattainment for the 1971 carbon monoxide standard, the 1979 1-hour and 1997 8-hour ozone standards, and the 2010 sulfur dioxide standard.

New Hampshire’s air quality currently meets all federal standards. Certain Northeast states, including New Hampshire, are included in the Ozone Transport Region (OTR), and must submit SIPs for the pollutants that form ozone. Former nonattainment areas have maintenance requirements, so they must be considered as part of the overall air quality planning process.

Previous 1971 Carbon Monoxide Nonattainment Areas

- Manchester
- Nashua

Previous 2010 Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area

A small area in central New Hampshire was previously designated nonattainment for SO₂ (see Figure 1 below); see below for the list of specific counties and towns. Also see NHDES’ State Implementation Plans page for related reports. Because there has never previously been a nonattainment designation for SO₂ in New Hampshire, there are no maintenance areas.

Central New Hampshire, NH (Maintenance)

- Hillsborough County (Partial)
 - Goffstown Town
- Merrimack County (Partial)
 - Allenstown Town, Bow Town, Chichester Town, Dunbarton Town, Epsom Town, Hooksett Town, Loudon Town, Pembroke Town, Pittsfield Town, City of Concord
- Rockingham County (Partial)
 - Candia Town, Deerfield Town, Northwood Town

Previous Ozone Nonattainment Areas

Although ozone levels may exceed the level of standard on a few days per year in New Hampshire, all three-year design values (which are used for direct comparison with the NAAQS) for New Hampshire's ozone monitors are currently below the 2015 NAAQS, and the entire state is in attainment for ozone. However, portions of the state were previously in nonattainment of the 1979 1-hour NAAQS and the 1997 8-hour NAAQS for ozone. The 1-hour NAAQS was set at 0.12 parts per million (ppm) and the 1997 8-hour NAAQS was set at 0.08 ppm. In 2008 the 8-hour NAAQS was revised to 0.075 ppm and then in 2015 it was again revised to 0.070 ppm.

Nonattainment designations for ozone fall into specific categories depending on the degree of severity. Areas with higher degrees of severity must develop more stringent plans and implement increasingly significant emission reductions. Ozone nonattainment designation classifications include: marginal, moderate, serious, severe and severe-17. Marginal areas have three years from the time they are designated as nonattainment to come into attainment. Similarly, moderate areas have six years; serious areas have nine years; severe areas have 12 years; and severe-17 areas have 17 years.

Portions of New Hampshire were previously designated as marginal, moderate and serious nonattainment for the 1979 1-hour ozone NAAQS (Figure 2). New Hampshire has since met the 1979 1-hour NAAQS, which has since been revoked and replaced with an eight-hour averaging time NAAQS. Portions of New Hampshire were designated as moderate nonattainment under the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS (Figure 3). Ozone levels in the state have since improved, and the area has been re-designated to attainment and continues to attain the 2008 and 2015 NAAQS.

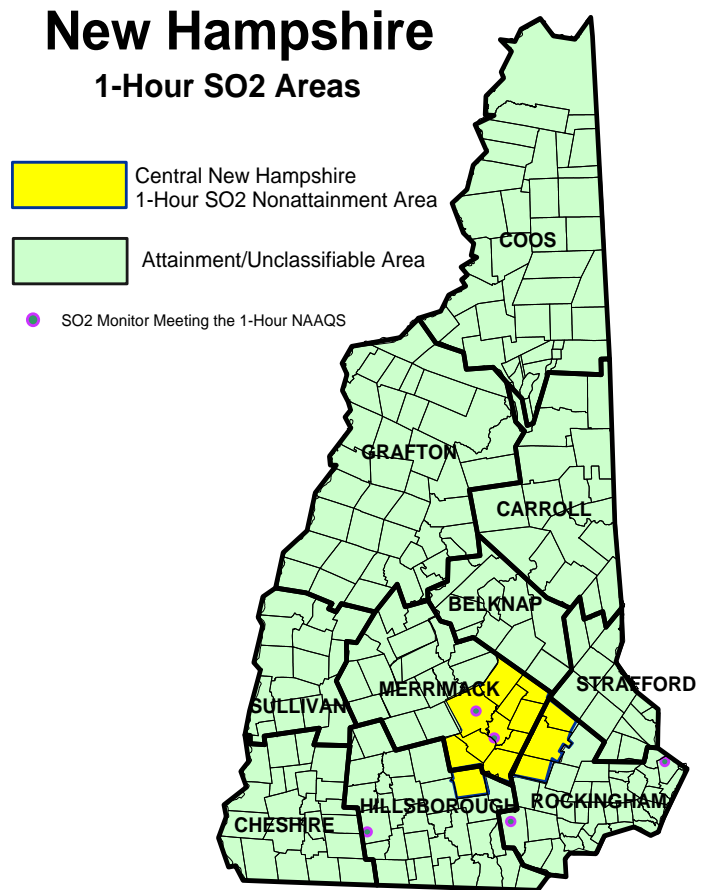


Figure 1. Previous 2010 SO₂ Nonattainment Area

Figure 2: Previous (1979) 1-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area in New Hampshire

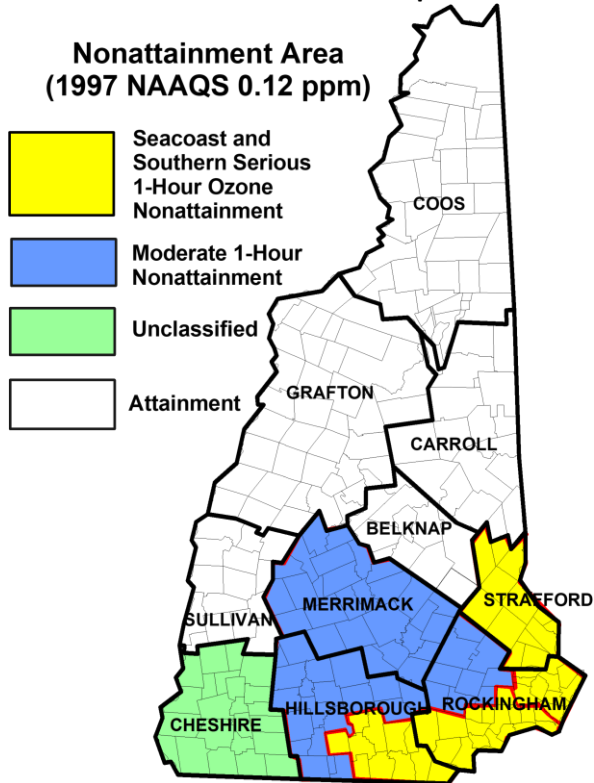
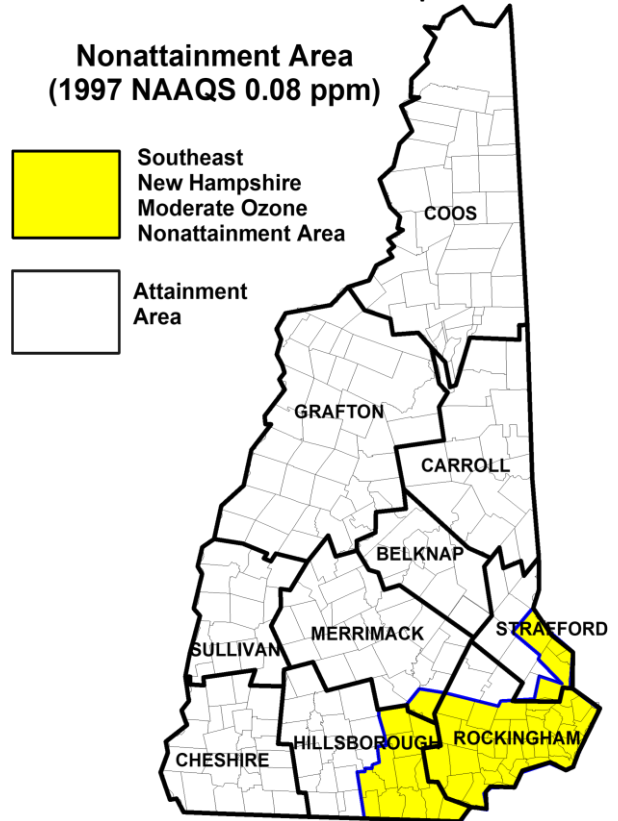


Figure 3: Previous (1997) 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area in New Hampshire



Previous 1979 1-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Areas

Southern Serious Area (Maintenance)

- Hillsborough County (Partial)
 - Antrim Town, Bedford Town, Bennington Town, Deering Town, Francestown Town, Goffstown Town, Greenfield Town, Greenville Town, Hancock Town, Hillsborough Town, Lyndeborough Town, Manchester City, Mason Town, New Boston Town, New Ipswich Town, Peterborough Town, Sharon Town, Temple Town, Weare Town, Windsor Town
- Rockingham County (Partial)
 - Auburn Town, Candia Town, Chester Town, Deerfield Town, Epping Town, Fremont Town, Northwood Town, Nottingham Town, Raymond Town

Seacoast Serious Area (Maintenance)

- Rockingham County
 - Exeter Town, Greenland Town, Hampton Town, New Castle Town, Newfields Town, Newington Town, Newmarket Town, North Hampton Town, Portsmouth City, Rye Town, Stratham Town

Manchester, NH Marginal Area (Maintenance)

- Hillsborough County

- Antrim Town, Bedford Town, Bennington Town, Deering Town, Frankestown Town, Goffstown Town, Greenfield Town, Greenville Town, Hancock Town, Hillsborough Town, Lyndeborough Town, Manchester City, Mason Town, New Boston Town, New Ipswich Town, Peterborough Town, Sharon Town, Temple Town, Weare Town, Windsor Town
- Rockingham County
 - Auburn Town, Candia Town, Chester Town, Deerfield Town, Epping Town, Fremont Town, Northwood Town, Nottingham Town, Raymond Town

Cheshire Co, NH (Incomplete Data - Nonattainment Maintenance)

- Cheshire County

Previous 1997 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Areas

Boston-Manchester-Portsmouth (SE), NH Moderate Area (Maintenance)

- Hillsborough County
 - (includes only the following cities and towns): Amherst, Bedford, Brookline, Goffstown, Hollis, Hudson, Litchfield, Manchester, Merrimack, Milford, Nashua, and Pelham
- Rockingham County
 - (includes only the following cities and towns): Atkinson, Auburn, Brentwood, Candia, Chester, Danville, Derry, East Kingston, Epping, Exeter, Fremont, Greenland, Hampstead, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Kensington, Kingston, Londonderry, New Castle, Newfields, Newington, Newmarket, Newton, North Hampton, Plaistow, Portsmouth, Raymond, Rye, Salem, Sandown, Seabrook, South Hampton, Stratham, and Windham
- Strafford County
 - (includes only the following cities and towns): Dover, Durham, Rochester, Rollinsford, and Somersworth