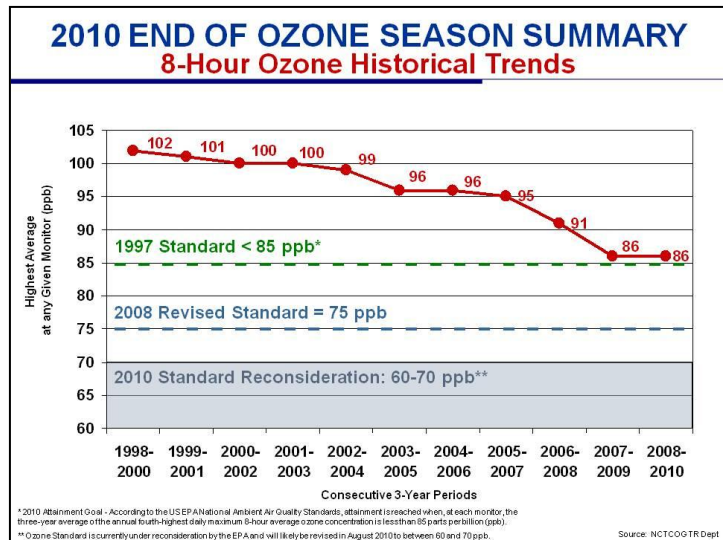


NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (NCTCOG) CLEAN CONSTRUCTION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Contractor Fact Sheet

Air Quality Background

Nine counties in the Dallas-Fort Worth (D-FW) area have been designated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as nonattainment for the pollutant ozone under federal health-based limits called National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The NCTCOG works with local governments and other stakeholders to establish control strategies that reduce ozone-forming pollution from mobile sources such as cars, trucks, trains, construction equipment, etc. Although air quality has improved significantly over the past ten years, the NAAQS was recently lowered, which will likely require additional emission-reducing measures to be put into place at both the state and local level.



Importance of Construction Equipment

Emissions from construction equipment are the third largest source of all mobile emissions in the D-FW nonattainment area, producing approximately 40 tons per day, or 10 percent, of all nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions. These NO_x emissions are the primary contributor to ground-level ozone formation in this region. Therefore, **strategies that reduce emissions from construction equipment have the potential to make a great impact on the region's overall air quality.**



Federal regulations have begun to require cleaner emissions standards for engines used to power construction equipment. Many new engines are certified by the EPA as compliant with Tier 3 or Tier 4 interim emissions standards, depending upon horsepower class (the higher the Tier rating, the cleaner the engine). However, because Tier ratings first came about in the mid-1990's, many Tier 0 or pre-regulation engines are still in use. Using higher-Tier machines in place of older equipment is one strategy to significantly reduce emissions and improve air quality.

The Clean Construction Demonstration Project is designed to gather information regarding the impact of a Clean Construction Specification which establishes emissions-based requirements for equipment in use on certain projects. The specification requires certain operational practices, such as limits on idling, and also stipulates that equipment meet Tier 2 or equivalent emissions standards, which phased in for engines manufactured from 2001-2006. Information gathered in this project will be used to determine whether these types of emissions-based contract requirements could be an effective air quality control strategy across the region.

Contractor Resources

Equipment owners may be able to take advantage of grant opportunities that offer financial assistance for upgrading construction equipment to higher Tier ratings. Visit www.nctcog.org/aqfunding for a comprehensive list of funding programs available in the D-FW area. Additional resources and information regarding clean construction equipment are available at www.nctcog.org/construction.