

SUMMARY OF THE 2020 KYTC *AIR QUALITY GUIDANCE*

Changes in the 2020 update to KYTC's *How to Address Transportation Air Quality in NEPA Documents* include:

- 1) **CHAPTER 1.** Additional language was added to this chapter to provide the reviewer with a basis of understanding of air quality in planning and NEPA. The Introduction outlines the laws and regulations of air quality and how they apply to NEPA. Section 1.2 was added to discuss the role of State Implementation Plan (SIP), the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), and the MPO's Transportation Implementation Plan (TIP). Footnotes are included that provide links to KYTC's Program Management website for the latest STIP and KYTC's Metropolitan Planning website for information on the MPO's.
- 2) **CARBON MONOXIDE, OZONE, PM2.5, PM10, NITROGEN DIOXIDE, MSAT, GREENHOUSE GASES** Definitions for these items, as they relate to air quality in NEPA were added to the policy.
- 3) **SULFUR DIOXIDE** Added the clarification that, while two areas in Kentucky are in nonattainment for sulfur dioxide, it is not a transportation pollutant and it is not necessary to consider this pollutant in transportation NEPA.
- 4) **CARBON MONOXIDE** Amended the language for projects with 80,000 ADT. Clarified that the 80,000 ADT must occur at a single signalized intersection to necessitate a CO study. For projects with over 80,000 ADT (at a single signalized intersection), language was added to direct the NEPA practitioner to evaluate the project against the FHWA Carbon Monoxide Categorical Hot-Spot Finding and the associated screening tool. Web links to the documentation and tool are provided in the policy.
- 5) **OZONE** Amended the language to account for the new 2015 standards for Ozone and the associated nonattainment areas in Kentucky. Included language to address the US Court of Appeals rulings on the 1997 ozone standard and the "orphan areas" that must now be considered, in addition to the 2015 standards. Links and mapping are included.
- 6) **PARTICULATE MATTER 2.5** Amended the language to address the changes in regulatory status for PM2.5 under the new 2012 standard. There are no nonattainment or maintenance areas in Kentucky under the new standard, therefore the PM2.5 qualitative/quantitative assessments and IAC processes were removed.
- 7) **MOBILE SOURCE AIR TOXICS** Updated the MSAT section to reflect the current guidance on MSAT from FHWA and EPA. Removed the appendix that provided sample

language and incorporated links to the KYTC DEA page for that information to more easily update the language when it changes.

- 8) **GREENHOUSE GASES** Amended the language to discuss the Executive Order 13783 that necessitated that the Council on Environmental Quality withdraw its 2016 *“Final Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change in National Environmental Policy Act Reviews”*.
- 9) **APPENDIX A.** This appendix was revised to the current language of 23 CFR 771.117.