

Status of the Ozone NAAQS and Ozone Design Values for Texas Areas

Gary McGaughey
Cyril Durrenberger

The University of Texas at Austin

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

- **Primary and secondary NAAQS for ozone have been established to protect public health and public welfare, respectively.**
- **The Clean Air Act requires EPA to review NAAQS every 5 years.**
- **Rulemaking is based on EPA's periodic review, which includes:**
 - **An outline of the review process and key science-policy questions**
 - **Evaluation and integration of the policy-relevant science**
 - **Quantitative estimates of health and welfare exposures and risks associated with current ambient levels and current and alternative standards**
 - **Presentation of the scientific basis for policy options for consideration prior to establishing the proposed and final rules**

History of the Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS (Part 1 of 3)

- **Previous (established 1997) primary and secondary NAAQS for ozone concentrations averaged over 8 hours was 0.08 parts per million (ppm)**
 - **Due to rounding, the standard was effectively 85 ppb.**
- **On March 17, 2008, EPA revised the primary NAAQS for ozone concentrations averaged over 8 hours to 0.075 ppm (75 ppb). The secondary standard was set at a form and level identical to the primary standard.**
- **In January 2010, EPA proposed to strengthen the primary NAAQS to an 8-hour averaged ozone concentration in the range of 0.060 and 0.070 ppb and to establish a new cumulative, seasonal secondary standard in the range of 7-15 ppb-hours.**
 - **Originally, the new standard was to be announced by August 2010.**

History of the Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS (Part 2 of 3)

- **On July 11, 2011, EPA submitted a draft final rule, “Reconsideration of the 2008 Ozone Primary and Secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards,” for review by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.**
 - **EPA recommended setting the level of the primary standard to 0.070 ppm and the secondary standard to 13 ppm-hours.**
- **On September 2, 2011, President Obama requested that the draft final rule be withdrawn in lieu of reconsideration of the ozone standard in 2013.**

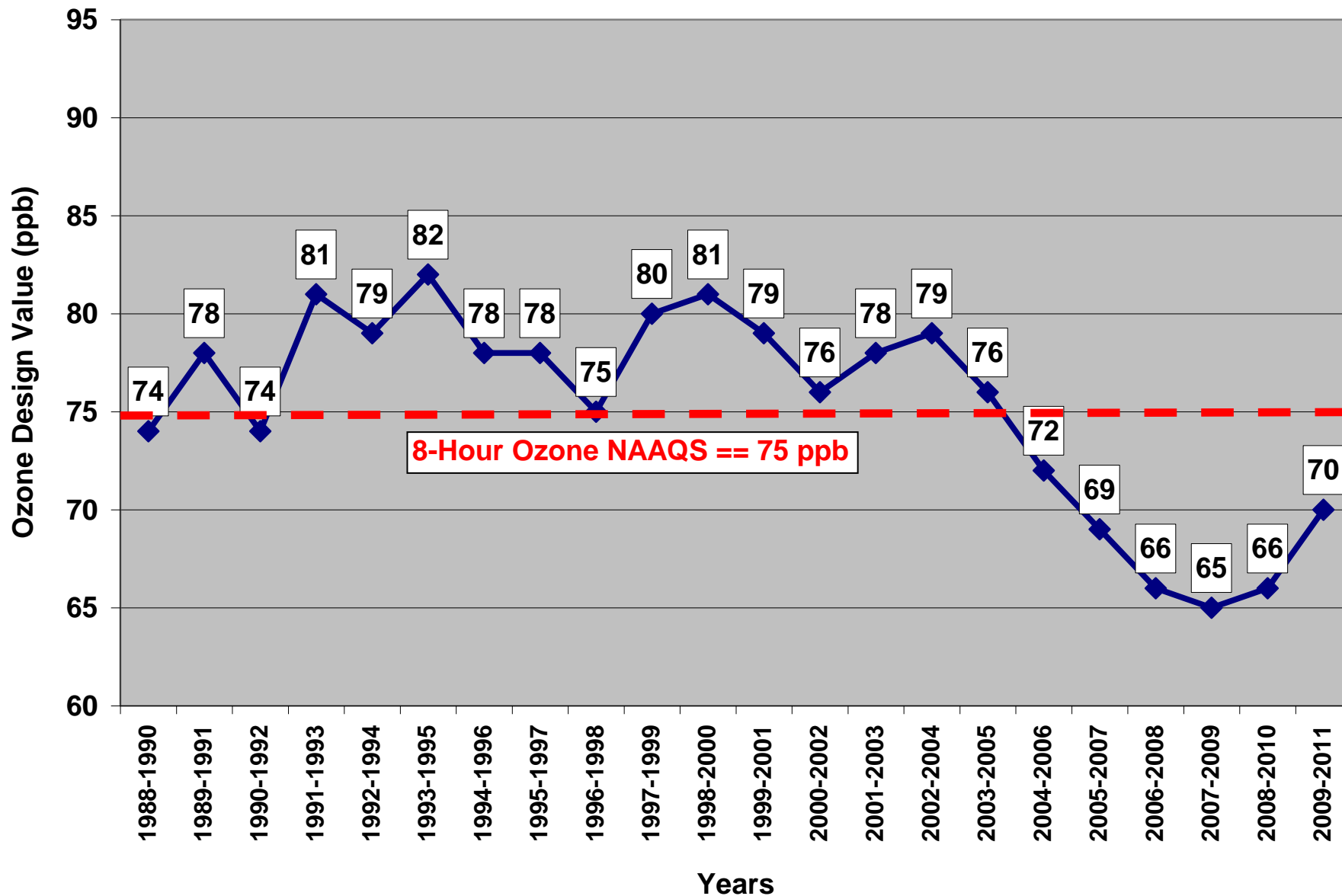
History of the Eight-Hour Ozone Standard (Part 3 of 3)

- **EPA issued a memorandum on September 22, 2011 to clarify for state and local agencies the status of the ozone NAAQS and to outline implementation steps moving forward.**
- **EPA stated that due to the recent decision on reconsideration of the ozone NAAQS, the current ozone NAAQS is 0.075 ppb (established in 2008).**
 - **EPA recognized that the 2008 standard is under legal challenge. EPA has recently indicated to the Court that it does not object to the establishment of a briefing schedule in that litigation and has provided a schedule for the Court to consider.**

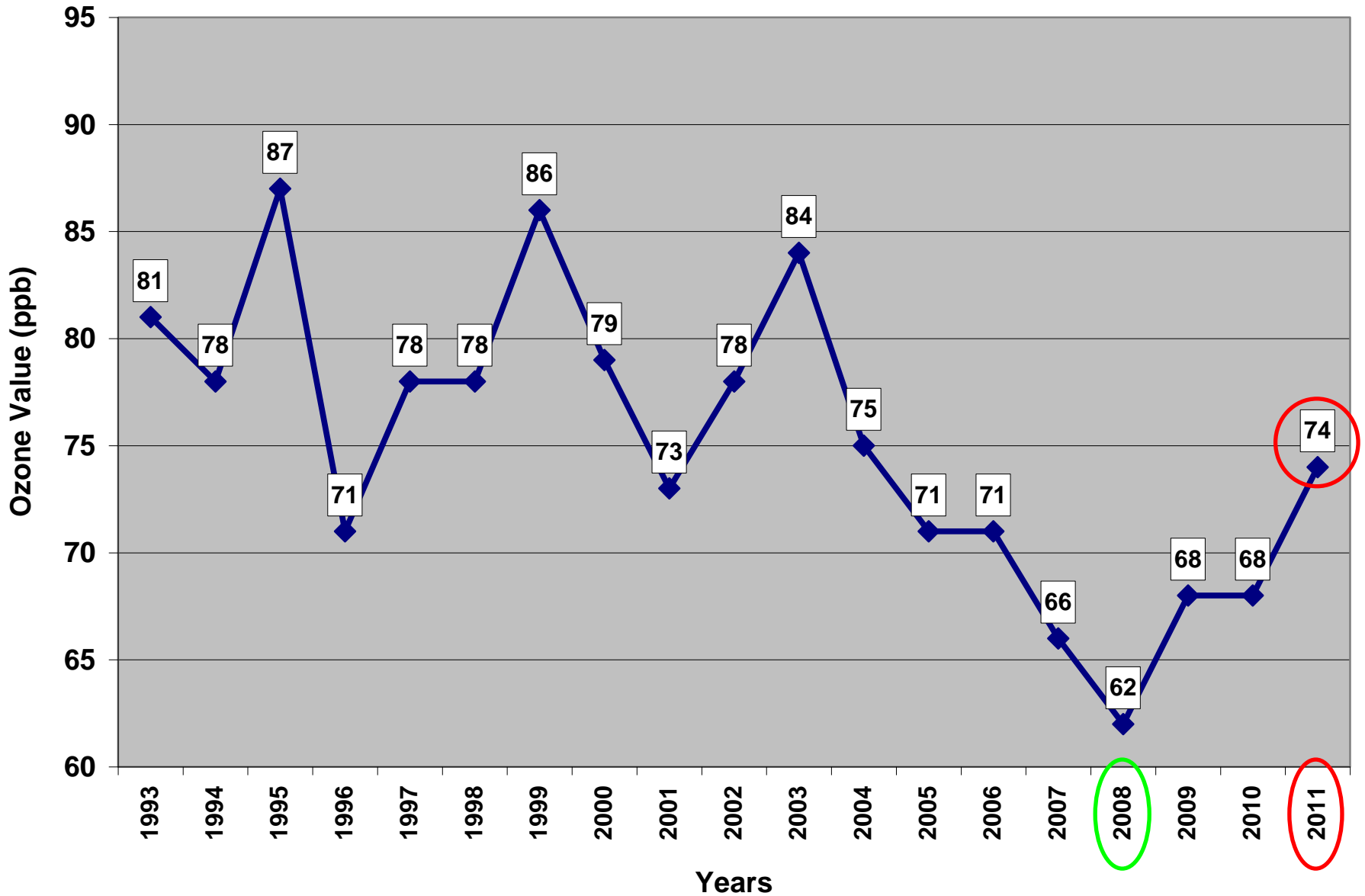
Where are we now?

- **EPA is proceeding with initial area designations under the 2008 standards, starting with recommendations states made in 2009 and updating them with the most current, certified air quality data.**
- **Proposed changes to the states' recommendations are expected from EPA later this fall based on review of air quality data from 2008 - 2010.**
- **EPA expects to finalize initial area designations for the 2008 ozone NAAQS by mid-2012, though this schedule may be impacted by pending litigation.**
- **The next regular review of health and welfare science is underway.**
 - **EPA will propose any revisions to the ozone standard in fall 2013 with finalization of revisions scheduled for 2014.**

8-Hour Ozone Design Values at CAMS 87 Years 1990 through 2011

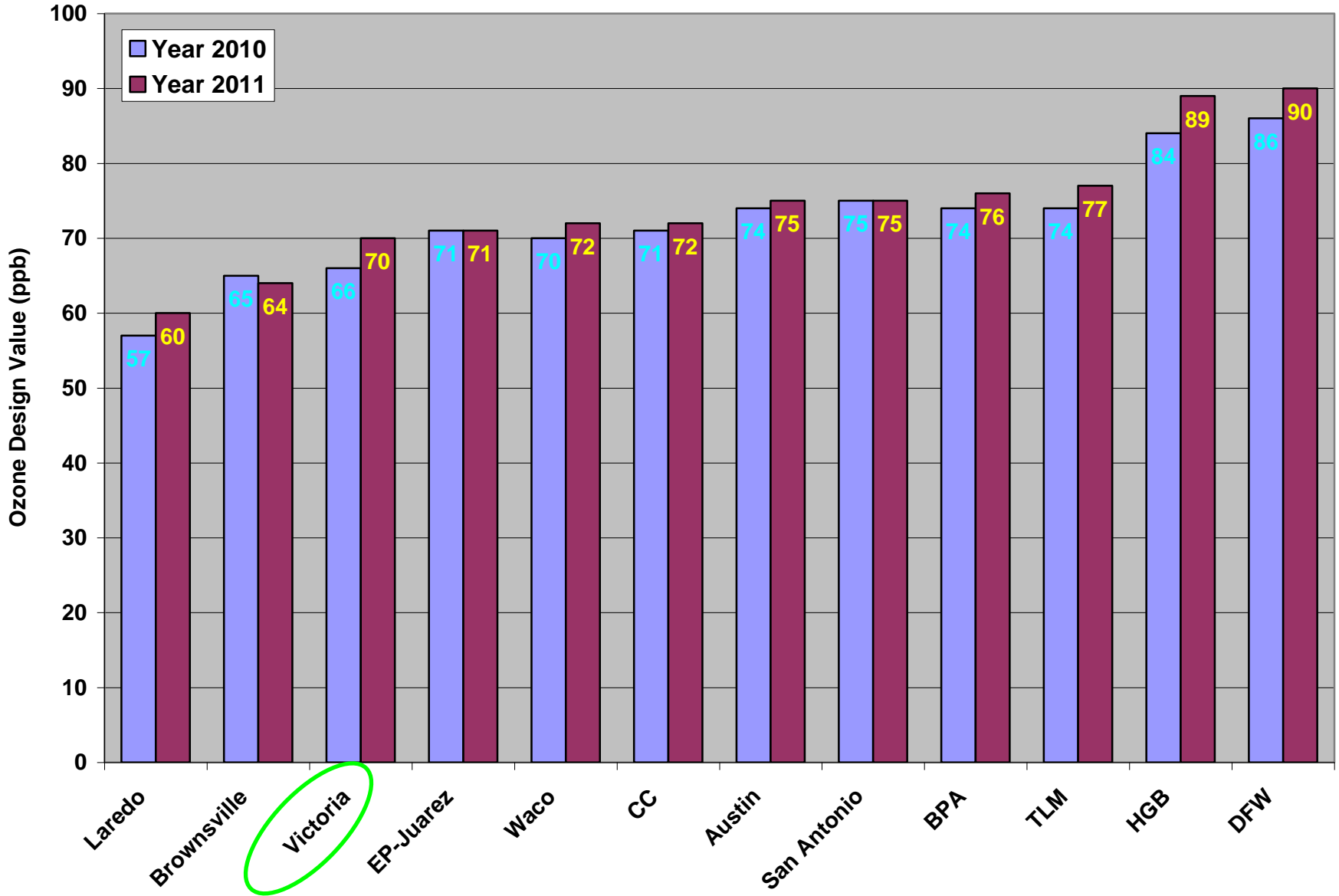


Fourth Highest Daily Maximum 8-Hour Ozone at CAMS 87 Years 1993 through 2011



Ozone Design Values for Texas Areas Years 2010 and 2011

(Data from TCEQ website "Compliance with Eight-Hour Ozone Standard")



Summary

- **Based on CAMS 87 ozone design values for either 2010 (66 ppb) or 2011 (70 ppb), Victoria is in compliance with the 2008 NAAQS for ozone.**
- **Based on Texas design values for 2010:**
 - **DFW is in Moderate Nonattainment**
 - **HGB is in Marginal Nonattainment**
 - **All other Texas areas comply with the standard.**
- **Based on Texas preliminary design values for 2011:**
 - **DFW remains in Moderate Nonattainment**
 - **HGB moves from Marginal to Moderate Nonattainment.**
 - **BPA and TLM are in Marginal Nonattainment.**