On October 1, 2015, the EPA strengthened the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to 70 ppb (http://www3.epa.gov/ozonepollution/actions.html). The new standard was adopted based on extensive scientific evidence about ozone’s effects on public health and welfare. The updated standards will improve public health protection, particularly for at-risk groups including children, older adults, people of all ages who have lung diseases such as asthma, and people who are active outdoors, especially outdoor workers. The new standard will also improve the health of trees, plants and ecosystems. The color-coded Air Quality Index (AQI) for 8-hour ozone (which is used for air quality reporting and forecasting) was also revised. For the Western Maryland forecast region, which includes small parts of West Virginia and Virginia, the number of bad air days (USG and greater) are expected to more than double. Visit either http://mde.maryland.gov/air or www.cleanairpartners.net for current air quality conditions and forecasts.

**New Ozone Standard and Revised AQI Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old AQI Category</th>
<th>Revised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USG</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unhealthy &lt;1*</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Unhealthy</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Due to averaging, a value of less than 1 “<1” indicates that during the 11-year (2005-2015) period at least 1 year had a Very Unhealthy AQI.

1 Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups

**8-Hour Ozone AQI Distribution Comparison (April 1-Oct 31, 2005-2015)**

- **Good**: 20.9% (Old), 5.9% (Revised)
- **Moderate**: 76.6% (Old), 61.9% (Revised)
- **USG**: 2.5% (Old), 0.3% (Revised)
- **Unhealthy <1***: 0% (Old), 32.0% (Revised)
- **Very Unhealthy**: 0% (Old, Revised)

**Ozone Exceedance Days Comparison**

- **2008 Standard**: 51, 55, 14, 17, 15, 16, 14, 17, 14, 3, 4, 3, 3, 3, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0
- **2015 Standard**: 25, 25, 33, 31, 15, 4, 5, 5, 12, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0

**Ozone Exceedance Days Comparison**

- **1996-2015 Number of Days**:
  - **Good**: 1996-2015 = 164 (Old), 2008-2015 = 22 (Revised)
  - **Moderate**: 1996-2015 = 45 (Old), 2008-2015 = 68 (Revised)
  - **USG**: 1996-2015 = 5 (Old), 2008-2015 = 13 (Revised)
  - **Unhealthy <1***: 1996-2015 = 0 (Old), 2008-2015 = <1* (Revised)
  - **Very Unhealthy**: 1996-2015 = 0 (Old, Revised)

**Western Maryland Forecast Region and Active Ozone Monitors**

- *Piney Run is a mountain-top and research monitor*