Air Quality Crisis!

Midlands Air Quality Forum December 11, 2009

Myra C Reece Bureau Chief Air Quality



Crisis" What it means & what it doesn't mean

- Air Quality not getting worse....
- Standards are getting tighter....
 - The "good", the "bad" & the "ugly"
 - Healthy communities (good); nonattainment designations looming (bad); and politics, deals & court decisions, antiquated CAA (ugly)
- EPA designations
 - 1 pollutant at a time (total of 6)
 - EPA Playing "catch up" 5 yr review requirement
 - Significant decisions every few months......

Ongoing NAAQS Reviews: Current Schedule

MILESTONE	POLLUTANT						
	Lead	NO ₂ Primary	SO ₂ Primary	Ozone	NO ₂ /SO ₂ Secondary	со	РМ
NPR	New schedule being developed	<u>Jun 26, 2009</u>	<u>Nov 16,</u> <u>2009</u>	Dec 21, 2009	<u>Feb 12,</u> 2010	<u>Oct 28, 2010</u>	July 2010
NFR	<u>Oct 15,</u> 2008	<u>Jan 22, 2010</u>	<u>Jun 2, 2010</u>	Aug 31, 2010	<u>Oct 19,</u> 2010	<u>May 13, 2011</u>	Oct 2011

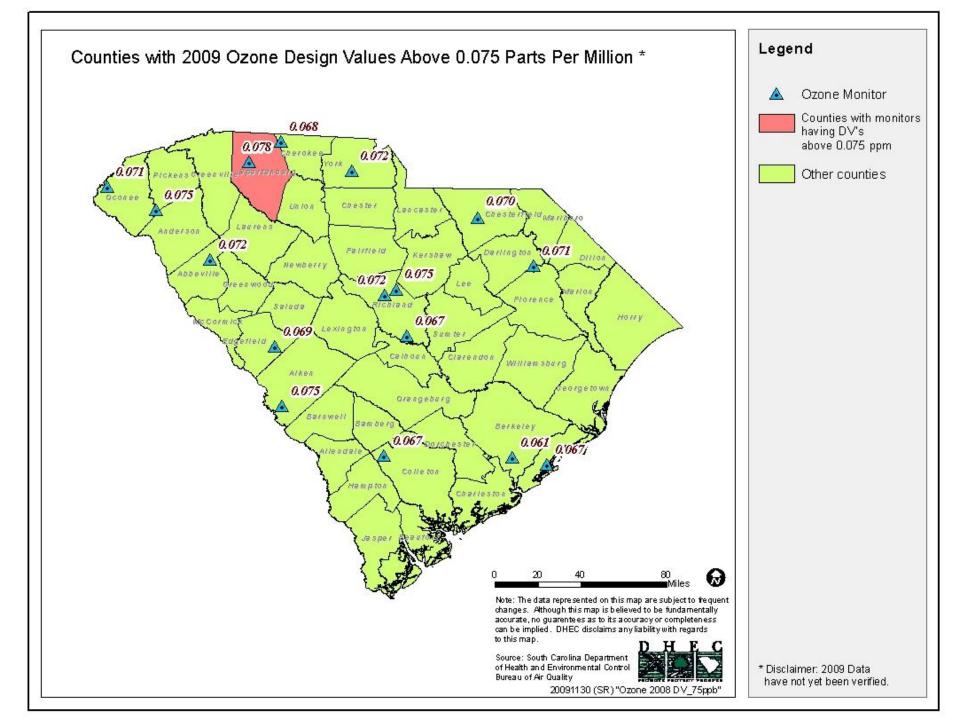
NOTE:

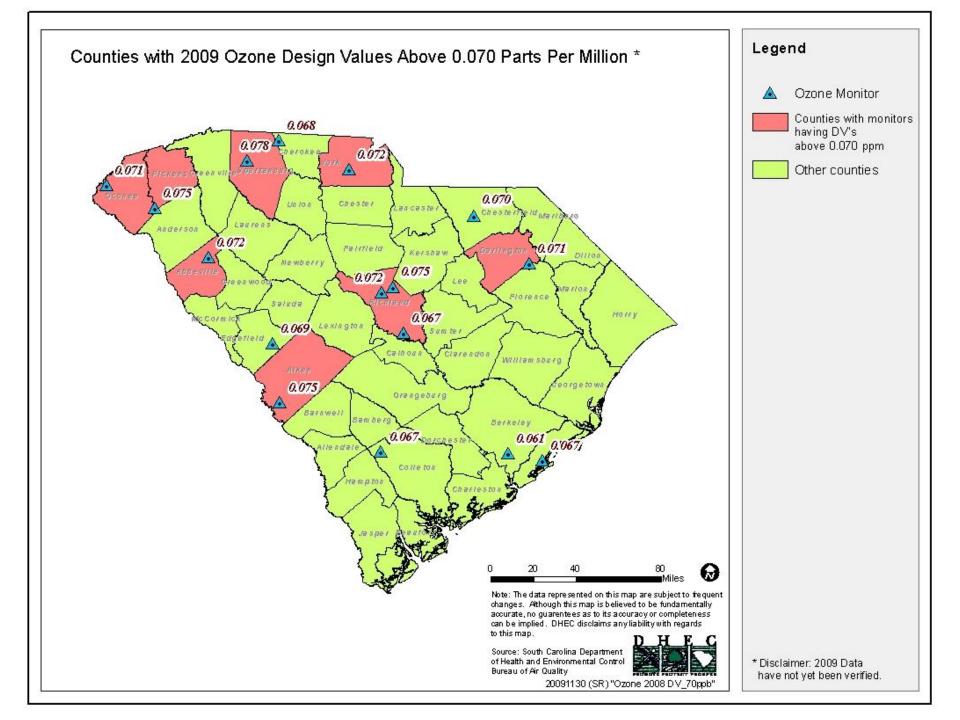
<u>Underlined</u> dates indicate court-ordered or settlement agreement deadlines.

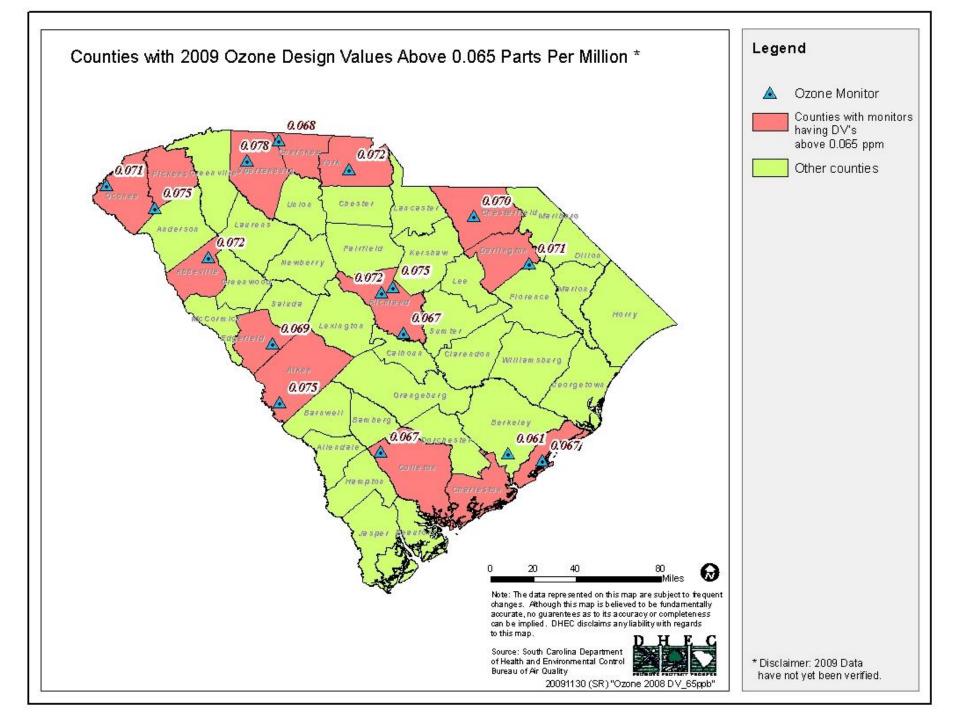
Currently negotiating 17 month extension of NO₂/SO₂ secondary schedule.

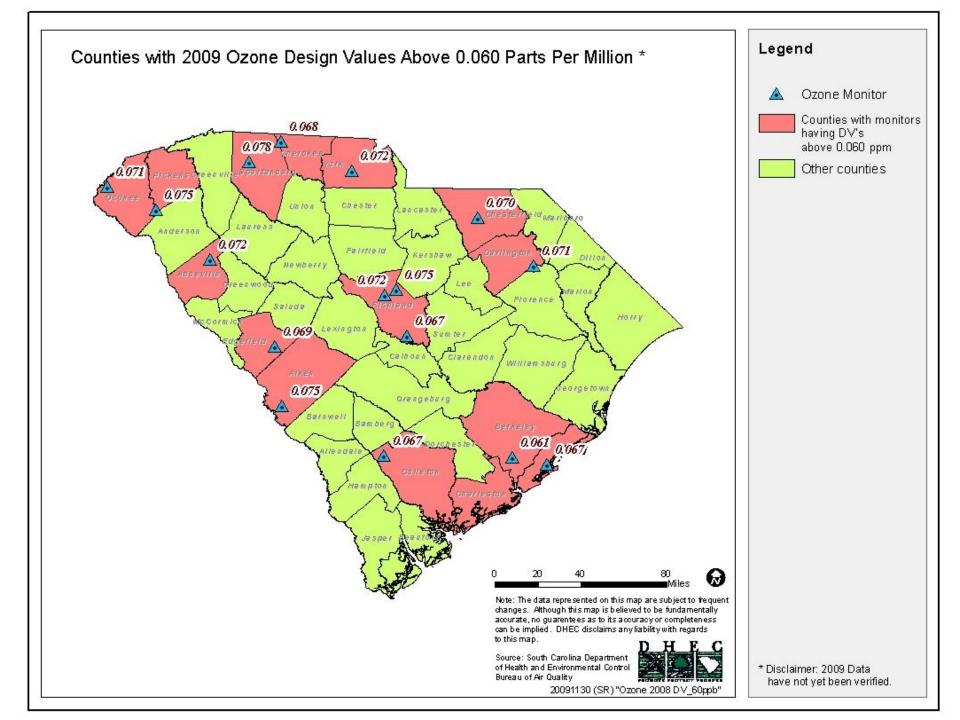
"Unprecedented Times" for Air Quality

- A lot of litigation.....hard to design state strategies
 - Need federal, state & local measures/leadership
- A lot of "emotions"
- A lot of uncertainty
 - New challenges.....antiquated CAA
 - Reconsideration of previous decisions....like the ozone std....Dec 21??









"Crisis Management"

- AQM reform (national level)
- Local measures are key:
 - Mobile sources
 - Transportation alternatives
 - Anti idling; carpool; telecommute
 - Congestion mitigation
 - Cleaner engines & fuels
 - Land use planning/smart growth
 - Energy conservation

Collaborative Problem Solving

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

-Henry Ford