

## **WHAT IS THE 8-HOUR OZONE EARLY ACTION COMPACT?**

- Texas asked for an extension of the 1-hour ozone flex guidelines to cover future 8-hour nonattainment designations; this became the 8-hour early action compact approach
- Purpose is to achieve “cleaner air faster” than the CAA requires

### **Eligibility**

- Area must be currently designated attainment for the 1-hour standard and monitoring attainment for the 1-hour standard
- Area may exceed the 8-hour standard

### **Requirements**

- Calls for early, voluntary plans developed through SIP-enforceable EPA-State-Local compacts and stakeholder process
- For violating 8-hour areas with a compact, EPA will designate the area “nonattainment” but will defer the effective date if (1) the State submits an early SIP by 2004, and (2) the state is implementing the controls and meeting milestones called for by the compact
- Compact’s SIP plan must be implemented by 2005 ozone season; SIP requires milestones and reporting, emissions inventory, modeling, control strategies, maintenance for growth, and public involvement
- Compact areas must attain 8-hour NAAQS by end of 2007
- Offers more expeditious timeline for achieving emissions reductions, earlier than EPA’s expected 8-hour implementation rulemaking
- Reverts to traditional SIP process if specific milestones are not met; area would need to do SIP for an attainment date of 2008 or later if the compact is not implemented fully.
- Voluntary measures are limited to 3% credit for stationary and 3% credit for mobile sources

### **Benefits**

- Provides local area with flexibility to control air emissions and to achieve cleaner air faster than the approach required by the Clean Air Act