Attainment Status

MCAQ 2012 SPRING WORKSHOP
The Clean Air Act required EPA to classify areas that are designated as nonattainment for the ozone standard by the severity of their pollution. These classifications, in order of severity, are:

- Marginal
- Moderate
- Serious
- Severe -15
- Severe-17
- Extreme
Lowering the Standard

- EPA must review NAAQS* every 5 years.
- March 12, 2008, EPA released a lower ozone NAAQS of 75 ppb.
- EPA wanted to reconsider this, but the President did not support their reconsideration.
- September 23, 2011, EPA announced it would implement the original 2008 standard of 75 ppb.

*National Ambient Air Quality Standards
Where are we now?

- EPA will use ozone data collected from 8 monitors in the Charlotte metro area from 2009-2011 to determine compliance with the standard.
- The Charlotte Metro area will likely fall into a “Marginal” nonattainment classification.
- We are only concerned with ozone right now. Of the other NAAQS pollutants, PM$_{2.5}$ is the only one that may be an issue in the future.
- Final designations expected around June 29, 2012.
What does it all mean?

- If the marginal classification is the final designation, you won’t see too many changes.
  - Major source threshold will remain 100 tpy for VOC and NOx.