



April 15, 2004, EPA designated several counties in the North Central Texas area as nonattainment under the new 8-Hour NAAQS for ozone (O_3) as mandated by Section 181(b)(2)(A) of the CAAA.

North Central Texas' newly designated nine-county ozone nonattainment area covers all of Collin, Dallas, Denton, and Rockwall counties; and portions of Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, and Parker counties. **Figure 3-16** shows the nine-county O_3 nonattainment area. Based on the magnitude of ozone pollution in these nine counties, the nonattainment area was classified as "Moderate".

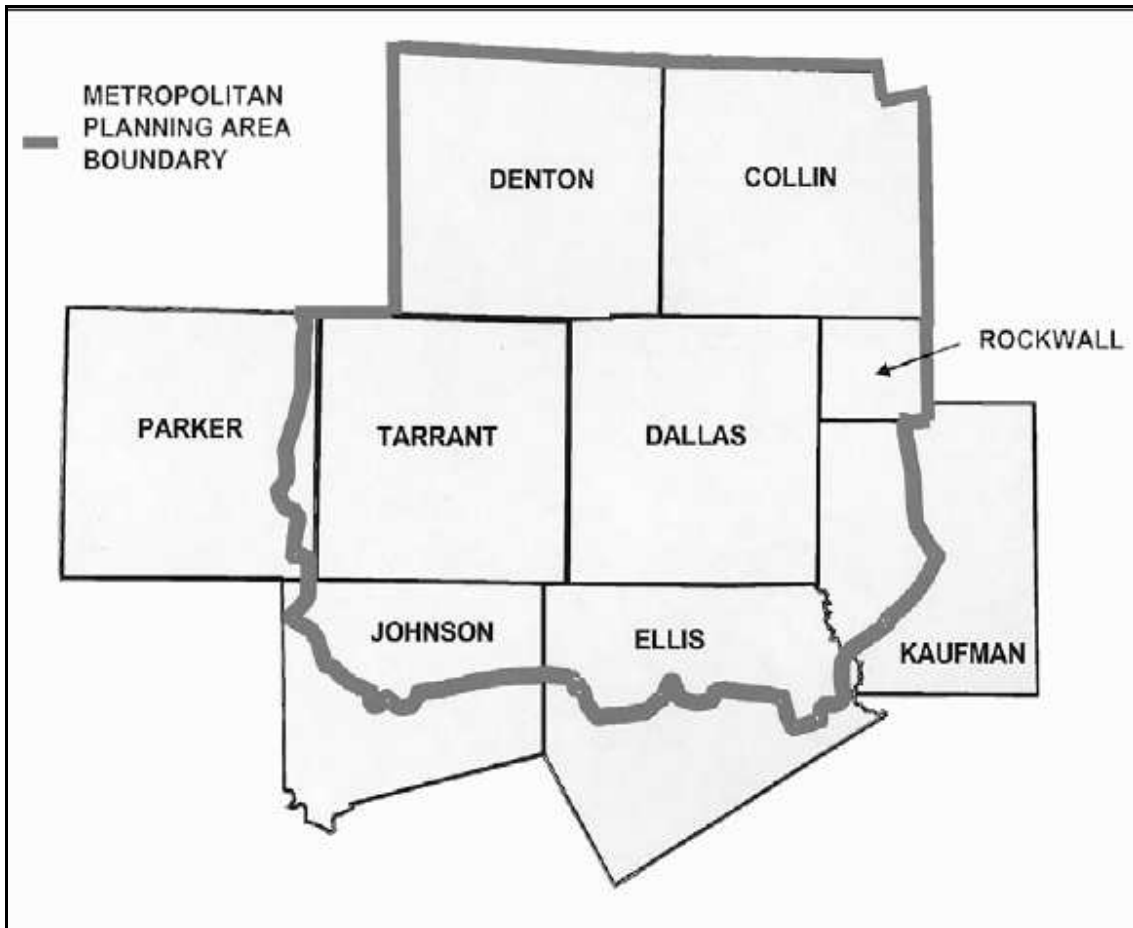


Figure 3-16

Nine-County Ozone Nonattainment Area

Source: Transportation Conformity for the Dallas/Fort Worth Nonattainment Area, 2005

The 8-hour NAAQS became effective June 15, 2004 and to ensure progress of the 1-hour standard, the new 8-hour standard requires continued commitments to control strategies approved by EPA under the 1-hour standard. North Central Texas' newly designated nine-county ozone nonattainment area is required to complete conformity analyses on its transportation plan with respect to mobile source emission budgets due to the air quality "nonattainment area" designation.

The Texas Council On Environmental Quality (TCEQ) under the guidance of EPA, is the lead state agency responsible for developing plans and implementing regulations for clean air. The EPA requires each state that has not attained the NAAQS to prepare a separate local plan detailing how to do so for each local area. These plans are incorporated into a State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the state.