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# DFW air quality gains in latest EPA classification

Dallas Business Journal by Matt Joyce, Staff Writer

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The North Central Texas region's air quality is a little less bad in the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's** latest classifications.

EPA Administrator [Lisa Jackson](#) notified Gov. [Rick Perry](#) this week that the Dallas-Fort Worth region remains in nonattainment for the pollutant ozone under the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

However, the region has been reclassified "moderate" nonattainment this time — a step up from the previous classification of "serious" non-attainment.

The EPA also added Wise County to the nonattainment area. It joins Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall and Tarrant counties.

The EPA designated the region as a nonattainment area in 2004, prompting regional efforts to reduce emissions. Failure to meet federal demands could result in cuts in federal transportation funding and tighter emissions restrictions.

[Jungus Jordan](#), Fort Worth city councilman and chairman of the Regional Transportation Council, said the "moderate" status is a step in the right direction.

"The efforts of TRTC (Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition) and RTC (Regional Transportation Council) and all the folks who care and bleed over transportation issues are

starting to pay off," Jordan said during a meeting of the TRTC on Wednesday. "We've got a lot more work to do."

An EPA spokesman said the agency will work with the **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality** to develop a new clean air plan for North Central Texas to meet the demands specified in the latest air quality standards – 75 parts per billion.

The TCEQ has 18 months to develop the plan, and the DFW area has until 2018 to achieve the standard.

Matt covers transportation, energy, government and economic development.