



August 30, 2013

**General Approval Order (GAO)**

The proposed General Approval Order (GAO) would streamline the state permitting process. The GAO would provide an option to the current case-by-case review of oil and gas well sites by offering a common approval order that meets all the requirements of the existing state rule for this source category. Permit provisions could include applicability, the equipment covered under the permit, and requirements for controls and emissions.

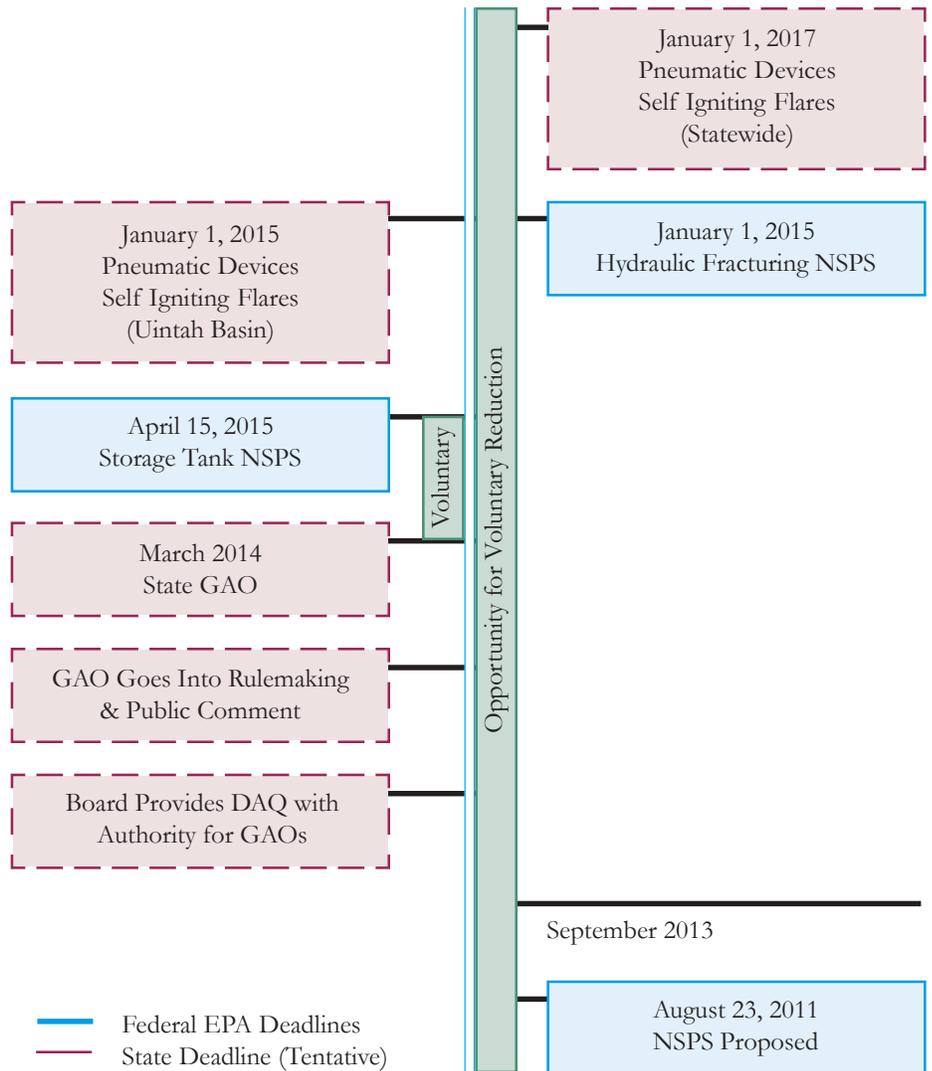
Steps:

- Air Quality Board approves rulemaking that grants authority to DAQ to issue GAOs.
- Proposed GAO goes out for public comment.
- If approved, GAO goes into effect.
- Permittees issued GAOs before the April 15, 2014 deadline for Group 2 storage tanks may be exempt from some NSPS reporting requirements.

Information Sheet

**Emission Reductions in the Uintah Basin**

Phase-in periods for new oil and gas standards provide companies with opportunities for voluntary emissions reductions ahead of state and federal deadlines. Voluntary reductions allow operators to bank emission credits and develop emission control strategies that fit with their business plans. Accelerated emission reductions in the Basin improve overall air quality and reduce the need for more stringent regulations in the future.



## Voluntary Emission Reductions

Early emissions reductions provide oil and gas operators in the Uintah Basin with a strategic window of opportunity, offering significant future benefits for forward-thinking companies.

Companies can:

- Bank enforceable reductions for use as offsets to provide a positive net air quality benefit for a new major source or major modification.
- Build costs for control technologies into their long-term business plans.
- Implement emission reductions over time.
- Make reductions before stricter requirements come into effect that limit options or cause the company to incur unexpected expenses.
- Help delay a future nonattainment designation and soften the regulatory impacts across the Basin from a State Implementation Plan.

## State Implementation Plan (SIP) Development

The Clean Air Act classifies nonattainment areas according to severity. Marginal or Moderate nonattainment areas for ozone have fewer SIP requirements than Serious or Severe areas. Early emission reductions can reduce pollution concentrations, resulting in a lower classification. Reduced emissions reduce design values, which in turn lower emission reduction requirements under the SIP. Once a SIP is in development, sources that made reductions before the base year will have fewer obligations under the SIP. Once the state implements SIP strategies, however, sources that did not make early reductions will generally face higher costs and reduced flexibility.

### Designation and SIP Process: Ozone (Sequential Timeline)

