

Identification of Nonattainment Classification and Deadlines for Submission of State Implementation Plan Provisions for the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particle National Ambient Air Quality Standards

FACT SHEET

ACTION

- On April 25, 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized a rule to :
 1. classify areas currently designated nonattainment for the 1997 and/or 2006 fine particle pollution standards as “Moderate,” and
 2. set a deadline of December 31, 2014, for states to submit any remaining attainment-related state implementation plans (SIPs) and nonattainment New Source Review SIPs required under the Clean Air Act (Act).
- In 2013 the D.C. Circuit Court determined that the EPA should be implementing its fine particle pollution standards under different Clean Air Act requirements than those the EPA had been following. The new set of requirements, found in subpart 4 of Part D of Title I of the Act, requires the EPA to classify areas based on the severity of their fine particle pollution problem. This rule takes final action on those classifications.
- Subpart 4 contains requirements that the EPA had not previously required states to address. Therefore, as a result of the Court decision, states must submit plans to meet any additional subpart 4 requirements not previously addressed. The final rule establishes a due date for those submittals. The rule also identifies existing EPA guidance and PM_{2.5} *Federal Register* notices that provide information regarding subpart 4 requirements that areas must address.
- This rule affects states that have areas that do not meet the 1997 and/or 2006 fine particle pollution standards and also meet one of the following criteria:
 1. no SIP has been submitted for the 1997 and/or 2006 fine particle standards;
 2. there is no clean data determination; and
 3. a complete redesignation request will not be submitted by December 31, 2014.
- To avoid duplicative work, the EPA encourages the states to consult with the EPA’s Regional Offices about SIPs that already have been submitted to the EPA designed to meet subpart 1 requirements in order to determine what, if any, additional submission is needed to meet subpart 4 requirements.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- For more information on this rule go to the EPA’s website at <http://www.epa.gov/airquality/particlepollution/actions.html> or contact Mia South at (919) 541-5550 or south.mia@epa.gov.