

FACT SHEET

Technical Correction to Equation 2 in Appendix N

ACTION

- On August 3, 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) made a technical correction to an equation used in the calculation of the annual mean fine particle pollution ($PM_{2.5}$) concentrations, known as design values. Design values are compared to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards to determine compliance.
- Specifically, this equation, Equation 2, is used to properly account for cases where a site does not have four complete quarters of data and passes one of two substitution tests.
- This correction does not change the current calculation of the annual $PM_{2.5}$ design values, but prevents an erroneous calculation when quarters have missing data and a substitution test is performed.

BACKGROUND

- Although Equation 2 has remained unchanged since the 1997 $PM_{2.5}$ standards were established, in a few situations a strict interpretation of the equation as written would result in erroneous design values when sites are missing quarters of data.
- This change accurately reflects the intended and existing calculation of the annual $PM_{2.5}$ design value and is consistent with the remainder of the text in Appendix N.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the rule from EPA's web site on the Internet under Recent Actions at the following address:
https://www3.epa.gov/ttn-naaqs/standards/pm/s_pm_2007_fr.html.
- Other places to read the proposed rule and background information (use Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0408):
 - **EPA's electronic public docket and comment system** at <http://www.regulations.gov>.
 - **The EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room** (for hard copies).
 - The Public Reading Room is located at EPA Headquarters, Room Number 3334 in EPA West Building, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington,
 - DC. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.
 - You will have to show photo identification, pass through a metal detector, and sign the EPA visitor log. Any materials you bring with you will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. You will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
- For further information about the rulemaking, contact Brett Gantt at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5274 or gantt.brett@epa.gov.