

Proposed Rule: Determinations of Attainment by the Attainment Date, Determinations of Failure to Attain by the Attainment Date and Reclassification for Certain Nonattainment Areas for the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards

FACT SHEET

ACTION

- On December 1, 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed determinations for 11 nonattainment areas classified as Moderate for the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Based on requirements under the Clean Air Act, these areas were required to meet the standard by December 31, 2015.
- The EPA is proposing to find that the following seven areas attained the 2006 24-Hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS by the December 31, 2015 attainment date based on 2013-2015 air quality data:
 1. Chico, CA
 2. Imperial County, CA
 3. Knoxville-Sevierville-La Follette, TN
 4. Liberty-Clairton, PA
 5. Nogales, AZ
 6. Sacramento, CA
 7. San Francisco Bay Area, CA
- The EPA is also proposing to find that the following four areas did not attain the 2006 24-Hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS by the December 31, 2015, attainment date based on 2013-2015 air quality data. EPA is proposing to reclassify these areas from “Moderate” to “Serious”:
 1. Fairbanks, AK
 2. Logan, UT-ID
 3. Provo, UT
 4. Salt Lake City, UT
- Upon reclassification from “Moderate” to “Serious,” states will be required to submit to the EPA revised attainment plans for these areas that, among other things, include the adoption of Best Available Control Measures and Best Available Control Technology (BACM/BACT) and demonstrate attainment of the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards no later than December 31, 2019. These revised plans will be due by December 31, 2017.
- In this proposal, the EPA is also explaining its denial of Idaho's request for an extension of the “Moderate” area attainment date for the Logan (UT-ID) multistate nonattainment area. The area has not met the air quality criterion to qualify for such an extension.
- The comment period for this proposal will be open for 30 days following its publication in the *Federal Register*.

BACKGROUND

- On October 17, 2006, the EPA strengthened the 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS to 35 micrograms per cubic meter. On November 13, 2009, the EPA designated 31 areas as nonattainment for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS, requiring states to prepare and submit attainment plans to meet those NAAQS.
- Currently, there are 16 areas designated as nonattainment for the 2016 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS: 14 Moderate nonattainment areas and two Serious nonattainment areas. This action addresses 11 of the 14 Moderate nonattainment areas. The three areas not addressed in this action and their status are:
 - Klamath Falls, Oregon - The EPA issued a determination of attainment by the attainment date of December 31, 2014, on June 6, 2016.
 - Oakridge, Oregon - On July 18, 2016, the EPA issued a 1-year attainment date extension from December 31, 2015, to December 31, 2016,
 - West Central Pinal, Arizona. The nonattainment designation became effective March 7, 2011. Therefore, the latest attainment date applicable to this area is December 31, 2017.
- For the 11 areas addressed in this action, the applicable attainment date was as expeditiously as practicable, but no later than December 31, 2015. The Clean Air Act directs that, within six months of the Moderate area attainment date, the EPA must 1) determine whether each area attained the standard by the attainment date; and 2) reclassify as a Serious nonattainment area any area that did not attain by the attainment date.
- A determination of attainment by the attainment date does not constitute a redesignation of attainment for an area. Rather, redesignations require states to meet a number of additional criteria, including EPA approval of a state plan to maintain the NAAQS for 10 years after redesignation.

HOW TO COMMENT

- EPA will accept comments on the proposed federal action for 30 days following publication in the *Federal Register*.
- Comments must be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ- OAR-2016-0515, can be submitted by one of the following methods:
 - Federal Rulemaking Portal www.regulations.gov: Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
 - Email: Send your comments via electronic mail to a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0515.
 - Facsimile: Fax your comments to (202) 566-9744, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ- OAR-2016-0515.
 - Mail: Send your comments to: Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), Mailcode: 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0515. In addition, please mail a copy of your comments on the information collection provisions to the Office of Information and

Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attn: Desk Officer for EPA, 724 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503

- Hand Delivery: Deliver your comments to: EPA Docket Center, Room 3334, EPA West Building, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20004, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0515. Such deliveries are accepted only during the Docket's normal hours of operation (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays) and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download the proposed rule from the EPA's website, at <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/determinations-attainment-failure-attain-and-reclassifications-2006-24-hour-pm>.
- This proposed rule and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, the EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room.
 - The Public Reading Room is located at the EPA Headquarters, room number 3334 in the EPA William Jefferson Clinton West Building, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.
 - Visitors are required to show photographic identification, pass through a metal detector and sign the EPA visitor log. All visitor materials will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. Visitors will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
 - Materials for these proposed actions can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0515.
- Additional information on the 2006 PM_{2.5} nonattainment areas is available on the EPA Green Book at <https://www.epa.gov/green-book/green-book-pm-25-2006-area-information>.
- For more information on the proposed rule, contact Ms. Leigh Herrington at (919) 541-0882 or herrington.leigh@epa.gov.