

Dec. 2005 Proposed Revisions to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter and the National Air Quality Monitoring Requirements



General Overview

Revised 1-30-06

Overview

- On December 20, 2005, EPA proposed revisions to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particle pollution.
- The proposed revisions would strengthen a fine particle standard important for both health and visibility, and would improve and refocus the coarse particle standards on those particles that are associated with public health concerns.
- The proposed revisions address two categories of particle pollution:
 - *fine particles* (PM_{2.5}), which are 2.5 micrometers in diameter and smaller; and
 - *inhalable coarse particles* (PM_{10-2.5}), which are smaller than 10 micrometers in diameter but larger than PM_{2.5}.
- Simultaneously, EPA proposed amendments to its national air quality monitoring requirements, including those for monitoring particle pollution. The proposed changes include the design of a network to monitor PM_{10-2.5}.
- For more information on both proposals and the RIA:
 - <http://www.epa.gov/air/particles/actions.html>

PM_{2.5}

PM_{2.5} – Primary 24-hour Standard

- Under the proposal, EPA would revise the level of the **24-hour standard** from the current level of **65 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** to **35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** .
 - EPA is proposing this change based on its assessment of a significantly expanded body of scientific information.
 - Studies show health effects at and below the level of the current standard
- EPA also is considering alternative levels for the 24-hour standard, between the range of 35 and 30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and is soliciting public comment on these levels.
- In addition, the Agency will take comment on alternative approaches for selecting the level of the standard, and on levels as high as the current level of 65 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and as low as 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

PM_{2.5} – Primary Annual Standard

- EPA is proposing to retain the current **annual standard** at **15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$**
 - EPA is proposing to retain this standard based on its assessment of several expanded, re-analyzed and new studies that have increased the Agency's confidence in associations between long-term PM_{2.5} exposure and serious health effects, including heart and lung-related death.
- EPA is considering and is seeking public comment on lower alternatives for the annual standard including 14 and 13 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- In addition, the Agency will take comment on alternative views including a standard as low as 12 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

PM_{2.5} – Secondary Standards

- The proposal would set the **secondary standards** for both the annual and 24-hour standards at levels identical to the primary standards
- EPA also is taking comment on whether to set a separate PM_{2.5} standard, designed to address visibility (principally in urban areas)
 - At levels within a range of 20 to 30 µg/m³, and
 - On averaging times within a range of four to eight daylight hours

Potential Timeline if PM_{2.5} NAAQS are Revised

Milestone	1997 PM_{2.5} Primary NAAQS	2006 PM_{2.5} Primary NAAQS
Promulgation of Standard	July 1997	Dec. 2006
State Recommendations to EPA	Feb. 2004 (based on 2001-2003 monitoring data)	Dec. 2007 (based on 2004-2006 monitoring data)
Final Designations Signature	Dec. 2004	Dec. 2009
Effective Date of Designations	April 2005	April 2010
SIPs Due	April 2008	April 2013
Attainment Date	April 2010 (based on 2007-2009 monitoring data)	April 2015 (based on 2012-2104 monitoring data)
Attainment Date with Extension	Up to April 2015	April 2020