United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

REGION 9
75 HAWTHORNE STREET (AIR-3)
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105

FACT SHEET

Final Finding that Imperial County Failed to Attain by 1994
– and --
Proposed Finding of Failure to Attain by 2001
Imperial Valley
PM-10

August 3, 2004

Today, EPA has signed two separate, but related, rules to bring cleaner air to Imperial County:

- Final Rule Action: As required by a recent Ninth Circuit Court Order, EPA finds that the Imperial Valley PM-10 Nonattainment area failed to attain by the moderate area attainment date of December 31, 1994. This final action will not be open for public comment.

- Proposed Rule Action: EPA proposes to find that the Imperial Valley failed to attain by the serious area attainment date of December 31, 2001. EPA has a mandatory duty to determine whether the area attained by 2001. The proposed rule generally describes the necessary plan requirements and would require Imperial County submit its clean air plan within one year of the final action. EPA will take comment for 30 days before taking final action on this rule.

Air Quality in the Imperial Valley – Monitors located throughout the Imperial Valley indicate there are violations of the PM-10 NAAQS. Three locations are in violation of the annual standard, and six monitoring stations are in violation of the 24-hour standard for the period starting from the beginning of 1999 through 2001.

Table 1 -Imperial Valley Monitoring Sites that Violate the Annual PM-10 NAAQS of 50 µg/m^3 (1999-2001).

Site Name	3-year annual average (µg/m^3)
Calexico Ethel Street	81
Calexico, Grant Street	85
Westmorland	52

Table 2 - 24-hour PM-10 Estimated Exceedances in the Imperial Valley Nonattainment Area (1999 through 2001)

Monitoring station	Estimated exceedance days 1999	Estimated exceedance days 2000	Estimated exceedance days 2001	Average number of expected exceedance days per year 1999-2001
Calexico Grant Street	31.7	37.9	12	27.2
Calexico Ethel St.	12.9	30	18	20.3
Niland	0	12.9	6.4	6.4
Brawley	0	6.9	0	2.3
Westmorland	0	12.8	6	6.3
El Centro	0	6	6.4	4.1

- While there are higher concentrations of PM-10 closer to the US-Mexico border, PM-10 NAAQS violations occur at monitoring locations to the north as well.

- EPA will work with the Imperial County and the Air Resources Board to develop an approvable plan to address best available control measures for serious PM-10 nonattainment areas.

- EPA acknowledges that some of the air pollution problem in Imperial Valley is due to emissions from Mexico.

- EPA has been working with the Mexican Government and other stakeholders to improve our understanding of the relative impacts of contributing international sources of air pollution and to develop and implement cost-effective control strategies to reduce those emissions.

- Particulate matter can accumulate in the respiratory system, penetrate deeply into the lungs and can contribute to health effects such as asthma, decreased lung function and alterations in respiratory tract defense mechanisms.

- EPA has tentatively identified that the Imperial Valley is attainment for the new national PM-2.5 standard. Final designations will be made later this year.

Further Information

- A copy of the final and proposed rulemaking will soon be available in the Air Programs section of EPA Region 9's website, http://www.epa.gov/region09/air/.

- For more information, please contact David Wampler, U.S. EPA Region 9, Air Planning Office, at 415-972-3975 wampler.david@epa.gov