

Final 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 April 28, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency made final attainment determinations for 10 nonattainment areas classified as Moderate for the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Under the Clean Air Act, these areas were required to meet the standards by December 31, 2015.
- The EPA has determined that the following seven areas attained the 2006 24-Hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS by December 31, 2015, 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 also found that the following three areas did not attain the 2006 24-Hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS by December 31, 2015, based on 2013-2015 air quality data. This action reclassified these areas from “Moderate” to “Serious”:
 1. Fairbanks, AK
 2. Provo, UT
 3. Salt Lake City, UTAlaska and Utah will be required to submit to the EPA attainment plans for these areas. Among other things, the plans must 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.
- The EPA is not making a final determination in this notice about whether or not the Logan, UT-ID nonattainment area attained the 2006 PM_{2.5} NAAQS by December 31, 2015. This area will be addressed separately.
- The effective date for this action is 30 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.

BACKGROUND

- On October 17, 2006, the EPA strengthened the 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS to 35 µg/m³. An extensive body of scientific evidence shows that long- and short- term exposures to fine particle pollution, can cause premature death and harmful effects on the cardiovascular system, including increased hospital admissions and emergency department visits for heart attacks and strokes. Scientific

evidence also links PM to harmful respiratory effects, including asthma attacks. Particle pollution also causes haze in cities and some of our nation's most treasured national parks.

- On November 13, 2009, the EPA designated 32 areas as nonattainment for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS. Of these 32 areas, 16 have been redesignated to attainment and 16 remain designated as nonattainment (14 Moderate, 2 Serious).

- This action addresses 10 of the 14 Moderate nonattainment areas. These areas were required to meet the 2006 PM_{2.5} NAAQS as expeditiously as practicable, but no later than December 31, 2015. According to the Clean Air Act, 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 Serious any area that did not attain by the attainment date. The EPA proposed these determinations of attainment/failure to attain by the attainment date on December 16, 2016.

- The three Moderate areas not addressed in this action and their status are:
 1. Klamath Falls, OR - The EPA issued a determination of attainment by the attainment date of December 31, 2015, on June 6, 2016.
 2. Oakridge, OR - The EPA issued a 1-year attainment date extension from December 31, 2015, to December 31, 2016, on July 18, 2016.
 3. West Central Pinal, AZ - The EPA designated the area as nonattainment on February 3, 2011, and therefore will make a determination about whether or not the area has attained the 2006 PM_{2.5} NAAQS by the attainment date of December 31, 2017.

- The two nonattainment areas already reclassified to Serious for the 2006 PM_{2.5} NAAQS are San Joaquin Valley, CA, and Los Angeles - South Coast, CA, which were reclassified in separate actions on January 20, 2016 (81 FR 2993) and January 13, 2016 (81 FR 1514), respectively.

- 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 after redesignation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download this action from the EPA's website, go to PM_{2.5} Regulatory Actions at <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/determinations-attainment-failure-attain-and-reclassifications-2006-24-hour-pm> .

- Today's action 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 this final action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0515.
- For further information about this action, contact Ms. Leigh Herrington at (919) 541-0882 or by email at herrington.leigh@epa.gov of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards.