



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor of Ohio
Office of the Governor
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6117

Dear Governor DeWine:

I am writing to inform you that lead (Pb) ambient air monitoring data from our Air Quality System indicate that the air quality designation for a portion of the Canton, Ohio area in Stark County, which is currently designated as “unclassifiable/attainment,” should be revised to “nonattainment” for the 2008 lead National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). The purpose of this letter is to notify you, per Clean Air Act (CAA) section 107(d)(3)(A), of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) intention to revise the designation of this portion of the Canton, Ohio area and the available information underlying that intended redesignation.

Reducing levels of lead pollution is an important part of EPA’s commitment to a clean, healthy environment. Lead exposure can cause a range of adverse health effects, most notably in children. Exposures to low levels of lead early in life have been linked to negative effects on IQ, learning, memory and behavior. On October 15, 2008, EPA substantially strengthened the NAAQS for lead. The revised standard was lowered, from the 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) level set in 1978, to a level of 0.15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.¹ On October 18, 2016, EPA announced its decision to retain the 2008 lead NAAQS, finding that the existing primary (health-based) standard provides health protection for at-risk groups, especially children, and the existing secondary (welfare-based) standard provides protection against adverse effects to public welfare, including harm to aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.²

On November 8, 2011, EPA designated Stark County as unclassifiable/attainment because available information did not indicate that the air quality in this area exceeded the 2008 Pb NAAQS.³ Recent data from our Air Quality System monitors located near the Republic Steel plant at 2633 Eighth Street NE in Canton indicate that the area around and including the facility is violating the 2008 lead NAAQS; the 2018-2020 design value for the area was 0.21 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

¹ 43 FR 46246 (October 5, 1978); 73 FR 66964 (November 12, 2008).

² 81 FR 71906 (October 18, 2016).

³ 76 FR 72097 (November 22, 2011).

Data from 2019-2021 indicate a design value of 0.40µg/m³.

Under CAA section 107(d)(3), EPA may at any time notify a state that a designation should be revised, e.g., from unclassifiable/attainment to nonattainment. Consistent with the CAA, and after carefully considering available information, particularly the most recent certified, quality-assured air quality monitoring data from 2018-2020, EPA intends to redesignate the portion of the Canton, OH area as described in the table below. The enclosed Technical Support Document provides a detailed analysis of the available information.

Area	Included County	EPA's Intended Redesignation
<p>Canton, OH</p> <p>The portions of Canton, Ohio that are bounded on the north by State Route OH-153 (12th Street NE; Mahoning Road), on the east by Broadway Avenue, on the south by State Route OH-172 (Tucarawas Street E; Lincoln Street E), and the west by State Route OH-43 – Northbound (Cherry Avenue NE).</p>	<p>Stark County (partial)</p>	<p>Nonattainment</p>

Per CAA section 107(d)(3)(B), your submission responding to this notification of EPA's intended redesignation is due 120 days after receipt. EPA will also make our intended redesignation decision and supporting documentation for Stark County, OH available to the general public for review and comment. We will announce a 30-day public comment period in the *Federal Register*. EPA's guidance regarding the factors to consider when establishing nonattainment area boundaries is included in the 2008 Lead NAAQS Final Rule.⁴ You may submit additional information to EPA's public docket for this redesignation, Docket No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0195, located at www.regulations.gov. Consistent with CAA section 107(d)(3)(C), EPA shall promulgate any redesignation for this area not later than 120 days after the first 120-day response period established by this letter. If EPA deems any modifications necessary to its intended redesignation, including modifications based on the state's response, EPA will inform Ohio of such modification at least 60 days prior to issuing the redesignation, providing Ohio an opportunity to comment.

We look forward to a continued dialogue with you and your staff as we work together to implement the 2008 lead NAAQS. For additional information regarding designations under the 2008 lead NAAQS, please visit our website at <https://www.epa.gov/lead-designations>. Should

⁴ 73 FR 67032 (November 12, 2008).

you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or your staff may contact John Mooney, Region 5 Air Division Director, at mooney.john@epa.gov or at (312) 886-6043.

Sincerely,

Debra Shore
Regional Administrator
& Great Lakes National Program Manager
US EPA Region 5

Enclosure: Technical Support Document: “EPA’s Intended Redesignation of the Canton, Ohio Area for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standard,” February 2022.

cc: Laurie Stevenson, Director
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency