

ADEQ Memorandum

Arizona Department
of Environmental Quality

Date: January 14, 2010

To: Interested Parties

From: Ira M. Domsky, Acting Director 
Air Quality Division

Subject: January 20, 2010, Meeting on Area Designations Under the Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards

As many of you may now know, the EPA recently asked the State to submit to EPA by February 8, 2010, a recommendation designating areas of Pinal County as being in attainment, nonattainment or unclassifiable (inadequate data to make a determination) for the inhalable particulate matter (PM₁₀) and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). EPA's request is based on PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} concentrations measured in the western portion of the county that are in violation of the NAAQS (see map on Web site link below). There have been no recorded violations of the NAAQS in the eastern and southern portions of the county.

ADEQ and the Pinal County Air Quality Control District have developed illustrative maps for potential boundaries of Pinal County nonattainment areas according to the 9 factors outlined in the EPA guidance. The factors include the locations of violating monitors and sources contributing to nonattainment, meteorology, topography, traffic and commuting patterns, expected growth, existing emissions controls and jurisdictional boundaries. Absent this type of analysis, EPA would default to a boundary that would include all of Pinal County. The basis for the nonattainment area boundaries will be documented in technical support documents (TSDs) that will accompany the Governor's recommendation to EPA. All of the relevant documents have been posted to ADEQ's Web site, including strawman maps, EPA letters and the federal register notice, and the draft TSD for the PM₁₀ nonattainment area.

Because of the importance and the urgency of this issue, ADEQ will consult with all affected parties and interested stakeholders. To that end, we are scheduling a second general stakeholder meeting for January 20, 2010, at the University of Arizona's Maricopa Agriculture Center in Maricopa, 37860 West Smith Enke Road, Maricopa starting at 7 p.m. At that meeting we will discuss the data used to conduct the 9-factor analysis and the basis for the strawman nonattainment area boundaries, and to hear your concerns and desired outcomes. Information on the designation process and copies of the documents and maps may be found at <http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/plan/pm-pinal.html>.

ADEQ will hold a third public meeting on February 1, 2010, at the Pinal County Air Emergency Operations Center, Building F, 31 North Pinal Street, Florence.

Written public comments will be accepted through February 5, 2010, and should be addressed to: James Wagner, ADEQ, 1110 West Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007, or by email at JW3@azdeq.gov.

We look forward to collaborating with you on this effort. If you have questions or need more information, please call Diane Arnst, Planning Section Manager at 602-771-2375, or me at 602-771-2308.