

NATIONAL TRIBAL AIR ASSOCIATION FACT SHEET

EPA's Proposed Revision of the Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Overview

The Clean Air Act requires EPA to set ambient air concentration standards for air pollutants, ozone, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide, to protect public health and the environment. EPA is required to revise these standards every 5 years. There are primary standards that protect public health, with an ample margin of safety to protect sensitive populations. It also sets secondary standards to protect public welfare and the environment. In this action, EPA proposed the following:

- Revise the primary annual PM standard Administrator's proposed decisions to revise the primary annual PM_{2.5} standard by lowering the level from 12.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to within the range of 9.0 to 10.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, but take comments on lowering the standard to 8.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
 - » The review of the scientific information reflects health effects at levels as low as 6.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Particularly for low-income minority populations and people with pre-existing health conditions.
- Retain the existing 24 hour primary standard, but is taking comment on lowering the level of









Above Image: "EPA Announces Proposed Rule to Reduce Particulate Matter in Air Pollution" Photo Credit: Martha Garcia <https://www.aboutlawsuits.com/epa-rule-particulate-matter-air-pollution/>

the standard from 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

- Retain all other primary and secondary standards.
- Changes appropriate to the Air Quality Index to support changes in the standards.
- Changes to the monitoring requirements to allow for monitoring low-income minority populations and work with those communities in developing monitoring locations.

Where can I find more information?

- EPA will take written comments at <https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0072> until March 28, 2023
- To read the proposed rule, additional fact sheets, and other technical materials, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/national-ambient-air-quality-standards-naaqs-pm>
- To access NTAA's Policy Resource Kit to help you and/or your Tribe submit comments, visit www.ntaatribalair.org

US AQI Level		PM _{2.5} ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Health Recommendation (for 24 hour exposure)
	Good 0-50	0-12.0	Air quality is satisfactory and poses little or no risk.
	Moderate 51-100	12.1-35.4	Sensitive individuals should avoid outdoor activity as they may experience respiratory symptoms.
	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups 101-150	35.5-55.4	General public and sensitive individuals in particular are at risk to experience irritation and respiratory problems.
	Unhealthy 151-200	55.5-150.4	Increased likelihood of adverse effects and aggravation to the heart and lungs among general public.
	Very Unhealthy 201-300	150.5-250.4	General public will be noticeably affected. Sensitive groups should restrict outdoor activities.
	Hazardous 301+	250.5+	General public at high risk of experiencing strong irritations and adverse health effects. Should avoid outdoor activities.

What is the Air Quality Index (AQI)? <https://www.iqair.com/newsroom/what-is-aqi>