

# **Exceptional Event Claim Concurrences that Resulted in Attainment for An Area for the 2006 24-Hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

On March 14, 2007, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a rule, “Treatment of Data Influenced by Exceptional Events,” that established criteria and procedures for use in determining if air quality monitoring data have been influenced by exceptional events such as unplanned fires or destructive storms. Exceptional events are unusual or naturally occurring events that can affect air quality but are not reasonably controllable using techniques tribal, state or local air agencies may implement in order to attain and maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The rule established the procedures and criteria that are to be used to identify, evaluate, interpret and use monitored air quality data for comparison to the NAAQS in situations where state, local, and tribal air quality agencies request special treatment because the data has been affected by an exceptional event.

For some areas with violations of the 2006 24-hour  $PM_{2.5}$  NAAQS, a State identified where the air quality data for a county or area were influenced by an “exceptional event.” EPA reviewed the data submitted by the State and concurred with some or all of the State’s findings. Thus, due to EPA concurrence on findings of exceptional events, some areas that were originally identified as violating the 2006 24-hour  $PM_{2.5}$  NAAQS, are now considered to be attaining the 24-hour  $PM_{2.5}$  NAAQS.

As a result of EPA concurrence on findings of exceptional events, the following areas originally identified as violating the 2006 24-hour  $PM_{2.5}$  NAAQS, are now attaining the 24-hour  $PM_{2.5}$  NAAQS:

- Missoula, MT
- Atlanta, GA
- Albany, GA
- Chattanooga, TN-GA
- Columbus-Phenix City, AL-GA
- Chattanooga, TN-GA
- St. Louis, MO-IL
- Norfolk, VA