



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT - 8 2009

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Jan Brewer
Governor, State of Arizona
State Capitol
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Brewer:

Based on the most recent air quality data, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that some areas in Arizona do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for fine particles (PM_{2.5}), measured over a 24-hour period. Consistent with the requirements of the Clean Air Act, EPA is designating those areas nonattainment. All other areas in your state will be designated unclassifiable/attainment.

My predecessor, Administrator Stephen Johnson, sent a letter last December, identifying areas that EPA had designated as meeting or not meeting the 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards based on data available at that time. However, the Agency did not complete the process of designating areas as attainment or nonattainment. Once the new EPA leadership team was in place, we reviewed the status of areas for the 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards to ensure that the final designation decisions reflect current policy and the most up-to-date air-quality monitoring data. The final rule I signed today reflects the results of that review.

The enclosed table lists the areas within Arizona that EPA is designating nonattainment. For those areas, you will need to take action to reduce emissions to achieve cleaner, healthier air. For those parts of Arizona that attain the standards, you will need to continue your efforts to sustain clean air. EPA will continue to work with you on both goals.

Our review of the most recent air quality data also indicates new violations of the particle standards in Pinal County. Within the next few days, you should receive a separate letter from Laura Yoshii, Acting Regional Administrator for EPA's Region 9 Office. Her letter will outline the processes EPA will work through with you to address these new violations.

Meeting these air-quality standards is very important to protect public health and the environment. Fine-particle pollution is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets. When inhaled, they can reach the deepest regions of the lungs and cause serious health problems, including aggravated asthma, chronic bronchitis, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, heart attack and premature death in people with heart or lung disease. Fine-particle pollution is also the main cause of visibility impairment in our cities and our treasured national parks.

EPA has taken significant actions that will reduce fine-particle pollution locally, regionally and nationally. The Clean Diesel Program, for example, will dramatically reduce particle-forming emissions from highway, non-road and stationary diesel engines. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided \$300 million in new funding for programs to support the implementation of verified and certified diesel-emission reduction technologies. Federal programs to reduce particle-forming emissions of nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide from stationary sources have also dramatically reduced the interstate transport of pollution that contributes to local violations of the standards. However, protecting public health by keeping fine-particle pollution levels below EPA's health protective standards will require continued work by EPA as well as our valued partners at the state, tribal and local environmental agencies.

Thank you for your continued efforts to improve air quality. Together, we have made considerable progress in reducing air pollution and its impacts on public health and the environment. For additional technical information, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/pmdesignations>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Jackson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lisa P. Jackson

Enclosure

cc: Benjamin Grumbles
Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Mr. David McIntosh
Associate Administrator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Ms. Laura Yoshii
Acting Regional Administrator, Region 9

Enclosure – Final Nonattainment Areas, Arizona

State	Area Name	Nonattainment Counties
Arizona	Nogales, AZ	Santa Cruz (p)

(p) partial county