

U.S. EPA FACT SHEET

Proposed Redesignation of the Hayden, Arizona Area To Nonattainment for the 2008 Lead (Pb) Standard

April 21, 2014

Summary

- EPA is proposing to redesignate the Hayden, Arizona area to nonattainment for the 2008 Lead (Pb) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (Pb NAAQS).
- Today's proposed action is based upon complete, quality-assured, and certified ambient air quality monitoring data from 2012 showing that the Hayden area is violating the 2008 Pb NAAQS.
- In addition, preliminary air quality data collected by Asarco in 2013 continue to show violations of the Pb standards.

Background

- Lead exposure causes a range of adverse health effects, most notably in children. Exposures to low levels of lead early in life have been linked to effects on IQ, learning, memory and behavior.
- In 2008 the primary and secondary lead standards were strengthened from the 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) level set in 1978 to a level of 0.15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- In 2011, EPA designated the Hayden area "unclassifiable" for the 2008 Pb NAAQS because data indicating that violations of the 2008 lead standards were occurring were preliminary, i.e., the data had not been quality assured and certified.
- At the time of designation, EPA notified the Governor of Arizona that EPA would redesignate the area to nonattainment if the data showed that the Pb NAAQS were being violated.
- An area must measure three consecutive years without a violation to be considered to be attaining the Pb NAAQS.
- Complete, quality assured, and certified data collected in 2012 at the State-operated monitor show violations of the 2008 Pb NAAQS.
- If this proposal is finalized, Arizona will be required to develop a plan showing how the area will attain the Pb NAAQS as soon as possible, but no later than five years after redesignation to nonattainment.

Next Steps

- Today's proposed action will be published in the Federal Register in approximately two weeks and will provide a 30-day period for public comment.
- After the close of the comment period, EPA will evaluate and respond to any comments in a subsequent rulemaking action.

For More Information: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/az/hayden/lead.html>