



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY - REGION 9

FACT SHEET

**PROPOSED APPROVAL OF THE PHOENIX
METROPOLITAN AREA 24-HOUR PM-10 PLAN**

September 14, 2001

Today's Action

- We are proposing approval of the 24-hour particulate matter (PM-10) plan for the Phoenix metropolitan area because the plan meets Clean Air Act (CAA) requirements including implementation of best control measures and most stringent measures, attainment and reasonable further progress demonstrations, quantitative milestones, and contingency measures.
- We are also proposing to grant under the CAA a 5-year extension of the attainment date for the 24-hour PM-10 standard from December 31, 2001, to December 31, 2006. The plan provides for expeditious implementation of control measures for all significant source categories, including agriculture, and demonstrates that even with these control measures the area cannot attain by December 31, 2001.
- As part of this proposed rule making, we are also proposing approval of the state's agricultural general permit and best management practices as meeting the CAA requirements for best available control measures (BACM).
- This proposal is the companion to our April 2000 proposed approval of the provisions in the plan that address the annual PM-10 standard.

Phoenix's Air Quality

- The Phoenix metropolitan area violates both the 24-hour and annual standards for PM-10 set in the CAA. These standards are 50 micrograms per cubic meter on an annual basis and 150 micrograms per cubic meter on a 24-hour basis.

- PM-10 in the Phoenix metropolitan area comes primarily from windblown dust, dust from disturbed areas such as construction sites, road building activities, agriculture, paved and unpaved roads, and disturbed cleared areas.

Background: Particulate Matter's Impact on Public Health

- Particulate matter is very small solid or liquid material. Particles smaller than 10 micrometers in diameter are known as PM-10. In comparison, a human hair is about 70 micrometers in diameter.
- When PM-10 is in the air, we breathe it into our lungs. These small particles can become trapped in the lungs where they can damage tissue and impair the lungs ability to function.
- The elderly, children and people with chronic lung disease, such as asthma, are especially sensitive to high levels of particulate matter. These are the populations that EPA's health-based standards are designed to protect.

Further Information

- The published finding and additional information regarding this action can be found on our website at: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/air>.
- For more information, please call Colleen McKaughan, Associate Director, Air Division, U.S. EPA Region 9 at (520) 498-0118 or Frances Wicher, Air Quality Planner, Air Division, U.S. EPA Region 9 at (415) 744-1248.