



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY - REGION 9

**FACT SHEET**

**PROPOSED APPROVAL OF CLARK COUNTY  
SERIOUS AREA PM-10 PLAN FOR  
THE LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN  
NONATTAINMENT AREA**

January 2003

**Today's Proposal**

- EPA proposes to approve the Clark County Serious Nonattainment Area Particulate Matter (PM-10) Plan as meeting the applicable requirements of the Clean Air Act.
- As part of this action, we propose to approve a series of rules adopted by the Clark County Department of Air Quality Management (DAQM) that control fugitive dust sources, including disturbed vacant lots, construction sites, unpaved roads, paved roads and unpaved parking lots. These are the major control measures relied on in the PM-10 Plan to demonstrate attainment of the health-based standard.

**Background**

- There are two federal ambient health-based standards for PM-10: a 24-hour standard of 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (micrograms per cubic meter) and an annual standard of 50  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . Clark County is currently classified as in serious nonattainment of the PM-10 standards. The Las Vegas area's deadline for attaining the PM-10 standards was December 31, 2001.

**Las Vegas Air Quality**

- The PM-10 monitoring network in Clark County shows the Las Vegas area is currently violating the 24-hour PM-10 standard. However, Clark County DAQM submitted information to EPA showing attainment of the annual PM-10 standard as of 2001. The PM-10 Plan includes a request for a five-year extension of the 24-hour standard.

## **Impact of PM-10 on Public Health**

- PM-10 is a pollutant generated from many different stationary and mobile sources as well as from natural sources. Inhalable particulate matter includes both fine and coarse particles which can accumulate in the respiratory system and are associated with numerous health effects. These can include aggravation of respiratory conditions, such as asthma, and increased hospital admissions and emergency room visits for heart and lung disease, increased respiratory symptoms and disease, decreased lung function, and even premature death.
- Young children, senior citizens, and people with asthma or heart and lung problems are especially susceptible to the effects of PM-10 pollution.

## **Public Comment Requested**

- We encourage the public to comment on the proposed approval of the Clark County Serious Nonattainment Area PM-10 Plan. Once published in the Federal Register, comments will be accepted for 30 days (approximately mid- to late- February 2003).
- For more information, please call Ken Bigos, Associate Director, Air Division, U.S. EPA Region 9 at (415) 972-3967 or Karen Irwin, Air Quality Planner, Air Division, U.S. EPA Region 9 at (415) 947-4116. Additional information can be found on our website at [www.epa.gov/region09/air](http://www.epa.gov/region09/air).