



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY - REGION 9

FACT SHEET

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

April 2004

Today's Action

- ! EPA approved 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've approved 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. EPA's approval of the PM-10 Plan grants a five-year extension (until December 31, 2006) to the area to attain the 24-hour PM-10 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.

Additional Information

- ! For more information, please call Amy Zimpfer, Associate Director, Air Division, U.S. EPA Region 9 at (415) 947-8715 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.