

# EPA PROPOSAL TO REVISE PM NAAQS

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# Introduction

- EPA published its proposal to revise PM NAAQS on January 27, 2023.
- This proposal follows EPA's decision to reconsider its December 2020 decision to retain the PM NAAQS and is based on the latest available scientific and technical information, which indicates that the existing standards may not provide adequate protection.

# Proposal

- EPA is proposing to revise the primary annual standard for PM<sub>2.5</sub> from 12 µg/m<sup>3</sup> to within the range of 9 – 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
  - EPA is soliciting comment on revising the level as low as 8.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and up to 11.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- EPA is proposing to retain all other PM standards:
  - Proposing to retain the secondary annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard at 15 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
  - Proposing to retain the primary and secondary 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards at 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, while soliciting comment on revising them to as low as 25 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
  - Proposing to retain the primary and secondary 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> standards.
- EPA is also proposing to:
  - Revise the Air Quality Index (AQI) to improve public communications about the risks from PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposures.
  - Make changes to the monitoring network to enhance protection for at-risk communities overburdened by air pollution.

# CASAC Recommendations

- Primary Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> Standard - Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) provided consensus advice on need to revise annual standard, but varying levels were recommended (majority of members recommended 8-10 µg/m<sup>3</sup> while a minority recommended 10-11 µg/m<sup>3</sup>)
- Primary 24-Hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> Standard – No consensus on revising standard, with the majority of CASAC members recommending revising the level to 25-30 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and the minority recommending retaining the standard
- Primary & Secondary PM<sub>10</sub> Standards - CASAC did not advise EPA to revise these standards

# Changes to Monitoring Network

- Proposal requires modifying the PM<sub>2.5</sub> network design criteria to include monitoring in at-risk communities where there are anticipated effects from sources in the area contributing to poor air quality.
  - Specifically: “For areas with additional required SLAMS, a monitoring station is to be sited in an at-risk community where there are anticipated effects from sources in the area (for example: a major port, rail yard, airport, or industrial area).”
  - As written the network design proposed change does not add a requirement for new monitors, rather it utilizes existing sites and ensures at-risk communities are considered if sites need to move.



# Changes to AQI

- EPA is proposing to update breakpoints for 50 and above based on the proposed levels of the primary standards, related health evidence, and the newest scientific information
- EPA is soliciting comments on these proposed revisions and the approach to establishing breakpoints

AQI Value	Current ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Proposed Revisions ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
0, Good	0	0
50, Moderate	12	Annual Standard (e.g., 9-10)
100, USG	35	Daily Standard
150, Unhealthy	55	Change with Daily Standard
200, Very Unhealthy	150	125
300, Hazardous	250	225
500, Hazardous*	500	325



# Health Benefits

- Public health benefits valued at as much as \$17 billion in 2032 for an annual standard level of 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and as much as \$43 billion in 2032 for an annual standard level of 9  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- 4,200 avoided premature deaths and 270,000 avoided lost workdays in 2032



# Public Comment

- EPA will conduct a virtual public hearing for this proposed rulemaking on February 21-22, 2023.
- Public comments can be submitted at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0072 latest by March 28, 2023.



# Implementation Timeline

- **Upon the effective date of the new standard:**  
Stationary source permitting: Prevention of Significant Deterioration (attainment area permitting) and Nonattainment New Source Review apply
- **Within 2 years after a final NAAQS:** Attainment/Nonattainment designations due. All PM<sub>2.5</sub> nonattainment areas are initially designated as “Moderate”
- **Within 18 months after the effective date of designations:** Attainment plan due
- **Within 3 years after a final NAAQS:** Infrastructure SIP due
- **End of the 6<sup>th</sup> calendar year after the effective date of designations:** “Moderate” area attainment date

# Current PM2.5 Data

