

Notice of Public Meetings
Proposed Fine Particulate Nonattainment Designation Recommendations

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will host three public meetings on Pennsylvania's Proposed Fine Particulate Nonattainment Designation Recommendations. The meetings will be held as follows:

- Monday, November 26, 2007 at 10:00 AM: DEP Southcentral Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110
- Tuesday, November 27, 2007 at 1:00 PM: DEP Southwest Regional Office, 400 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburg, PA 15222
- Wednesday, November 28, 2007 at 1:00 PM: DEP Southeast Regional Office, 2 East Main Street, Norristown, PA 19401

At the meetings, DEP is seeking public comment on its proposed recommendations to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the designation of areas not meeting the revised 24-hour health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for fine particulates (PM_{2.5}). Reducing concentrations of this pollutant is important because levels above the health-based standard are a serious human health threat and also can cause or contribute to other negative environmental impacts.

EPA established a revised NAAQS for the daily (24-hour) PM_{2.5} standard in October 2006. Following the promulgation of new or revised air standards, states are given the opportunity to submit recommendations for attainment/nonattainment areas, supported by most recent quality-assured monitoring data. DEP will be submitting recommendations based on air quality monitoring data for 2004-2006, in December 2007. Pennsylvania will recommend to EPA that boundaries for the designated areas generally follow the existing planning areas for the annual fine particulate standard with some exceptions. EPA is expected to make final designations in December 2009. DEP would then have three years to develop a plan for any areas designated nonattainment to meet the NAAQS.

Copies of this proposal may be obtained on the DEP Website at <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us> (choose "air quality") or by calling Yvette House at 717-787-9495. Written comments on the recommendations (including the name, affiliation, mailing address, and telephone number of the interested party) should be sent to the following contact no later than 4:00 PM on December 7, 2007.

Tim Leon-Guerrero
Air Resource Management Division
Bureau of Air Quality
P.O.BOX 8468
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8468
Email (preferred): tleonguerr@state.pa.us