

January 16, 2025

Electronic Submission via EPA Portal

Debra Shore, Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
77 W Jackson Blvd
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

RE: State of Minnesota Designation Recommendation for 2024 Annual PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air
Quality Standard

Dear Regional Administrator Shore:

With this letter and the attached/enclosed monitoring data, Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota recommends that all the counties in the State of Minnesota be designated as attainment for the 2024 annual National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter (PM_{2.5}), published in the *Federal Register* on March 6, 2024, and effective May 6, 2024 (89 FR 16202).

This recommendation does not include areas in the state that are under Tribal jurisdiction. Tribal governments may submit designation requests to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Tribal Authority Rule of 1998 (63 FR 7254).

The attached/enclosed data demonstrates that no site in Minnesota exceeded the 2024 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS in the 2021-2023 monitoring period.

The Commissioner of the MPCA, duly authorized by the Governor of the State of Minnesota, is submitting this data and recommendation on behalf of Governor Walz.

If you have any questions or comments about this submission, please contact Lauren Dickerson at lauren.dickerson@state.mn.us or 651-757-2184.

Sincerely,

Katrina Kessler

This document has been electronically signed.

Katrina Kessler
Commissioner

KK/LD:kt/rm

Enclosure/Attachment

State of Minnesota Designation Recommendation for 2024 PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standard

Pursuant to Section 107(d) of the Clean Air Act and following the revision of the NAAQS for PM_{2.5}, published in the *Federal Register* on March 6, 2024 and effective May 6, 2024, Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota is recommending that all the counties in the state of Minnesota be designated as attainment for the 2024 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS.

This recommendation does not include areas in the state that are under Tribal jurisdiction. Tribal governments may submit designation requests to the EPA under the Tribal Authority Rule of 1998 (63 FR 7254).

The 2024 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS is 9.0 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³). The design value is the annual mean concentration, averaged over three consecutive years. Monitoring sites must meet the data completeness requirements listed in Appendix N to 40 C.F.R. pt. 50 to have a valid design value.

This designation recommendation is based on three consecutive years (2021-2023) of air sampling data collected at twenty-three regulatory monitors around the state. To meet the 2024 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS, the three-year average of the annual mean concentration of PM_{2.5} must not exceed 9.0 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³). The Table 1 data demonstrates that all monitors in Minnesota registered concentrations below the 2024 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS for the 2021-2023 design value year. Quality-assured PM_{2.5} monitoring data for Minnesota has been submitted and certified to the Air Quality System through 2023. The design values shown here are computed using Federal Reference Method or equivalent data reported by State, Tribal, and Local monitoring agencies to EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) as of August 8, 2024.

Table 1. Monitored PM_{2.5} Design Values

County Name	AQS Site ID	Local Site Name	Valid 2021-2023 Design Value (µg/m ³)	2021 Annual Mean Value (µg/m ³)	2022 Annual Mean Value (µg/m ³)	2023 Annual Mean Value (µg/m ³)
Anoka	270031002	Anoka County Airport (Blaine)	7.4	7.56	5.89	8.60
Becker	270052013	FWS Wetland Management District (Detroit Lakes)	8.6	12.12	5.21	8.34
Beltrami	270072304	Red Lake Nation (Red Lake)	6.9	8.19	4.66	7.72
Carlton	270177417	Fond Du Lac Band (Cloquet)	3.7	3.82	1.37	5.89
Cass	270213410	Leech Lake Nation (Cass Lake)	8.9	13.25	5.87	7.49
Cook	270317810	Grand Portage Band	2.7	3.00	1.17	3.97
Crow Wing	270353204	Brainerd Lakes Regional Airport (Brainerd)	6.7	6.75	5.37	7.94
Dakota	270370470	Apple Valley (Apple Valley)	7.5	6.53	5.39	10.62

County Name	AQS Site ID	Local Site Name	Valid 2021-2023 Design Value ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	2021 Annual Mean Value ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	2022 Annual Mean Value ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	2023 Annual Mean Value ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)
Dakota	270370480	Near Road I-35 (Lakeville)	8.0	8.83	5.66	9.52
Hennepin	270530962	Near Road I-35/I-94 (Minneapolis)	8.6	8.53	7.11	10.19
Hennepin	270530963	Andersen School (Minneapolis)	8.3	7.52	7.16	10.31
Hennepin	270532006	St. Louis Park City Hall (St. Louis Park)	8.4	9.05	6.51	9.72
Lake	270750005	Boundary Waters	4.9	4.74	4.08	5.81
Lyon	270834210	Southwest Minnesota Regional Airport (Marshall)	7.8	7.46	6.46	9.57
Olmsted	271095008	Ben Franklin School (Rochester)	7.2	5.97	6.03	9.56
Ramsey	271230868	Ramsey Health Center (St. Paul)	9.0	9.81	7.33	9.88
Ramsey	271230871	Harding High School (St. Paul)	8.2	8.06	6.41	10.02
Saint Louis	271377001	Virginia City Hall (Virginia)	6.0	6.39	4.36	7.10
Saint Louis	271377550	U of M – Duluth (Duluth)	4.5	3.08	2.85	7.58
Saint Louis	271377554	Laura Macarthur School (Duluth)	5.6	5.78	3.60	7.56
Scott	271390505	B.F. Pearson School (Shakopee)	7.8	6.68	6.34	10.41
Stearns	271453052	Talahi School (St. Cloud)	Invalid	8.92	6.08	9.42
Wright	271713201	St. Michael Elementary School (St. Michael)	7.9	8.83	5.59	9.19

The St. Cloud Talahi School site was undergoing building repair in year 2022. From June through August that year, MPCA monitoring field staff did not have access to the monitor. This impacted design value validity due to data completeness for design value periods 2020-2022 and 2021-2023. Valid and invalid annual design values at the Talahi School site over the last decade have never been greater than 9.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as shown in the Table 2. This is despite the fact the state was highly impacted by wildfire in both years 2021 and 2023.

Table 2. Talahi School (AQS Site ID 27-145-3052) PM_{2.5} Design Values

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Valid Annual Design Value ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	7.9	7.0	6.1	5.9	5.7	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.8		
Invalid Annual Design Value ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)										7.1	8.1

Locations of Minnesota's PM_{2.5} regulatory monitors and data can be seen in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 1. Greater Minnesota PM_{2.5} monitoring sites 2021-2023

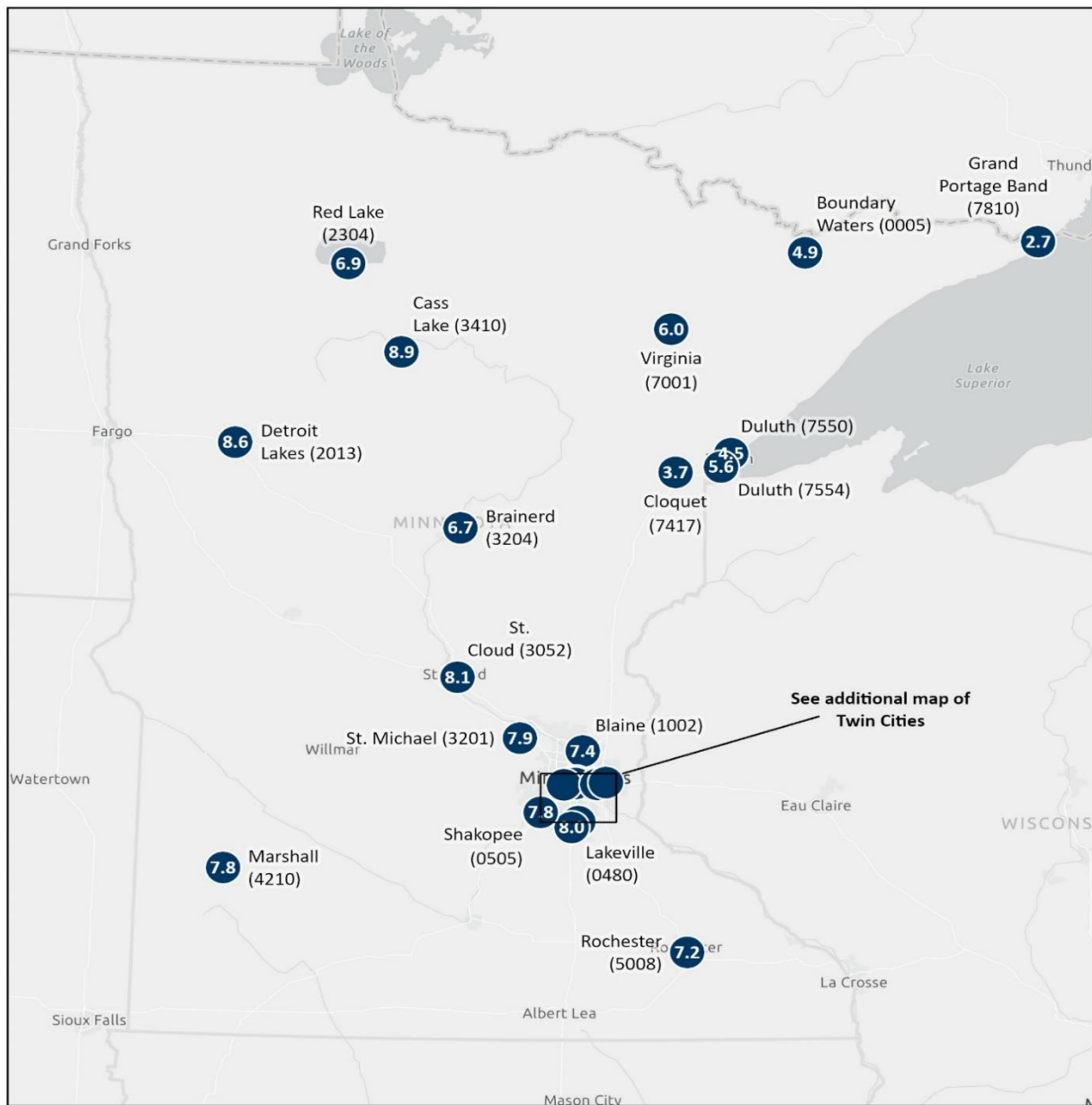
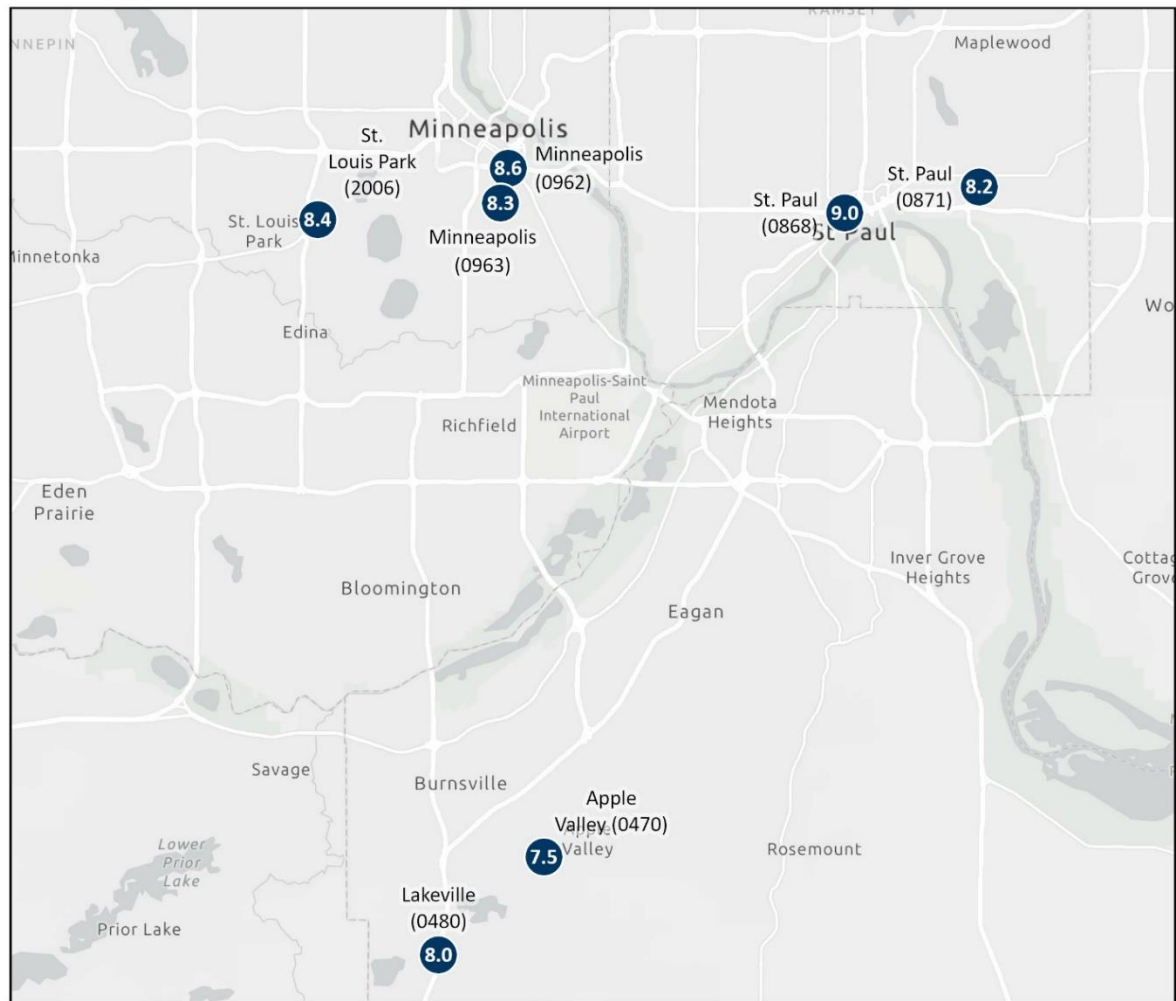
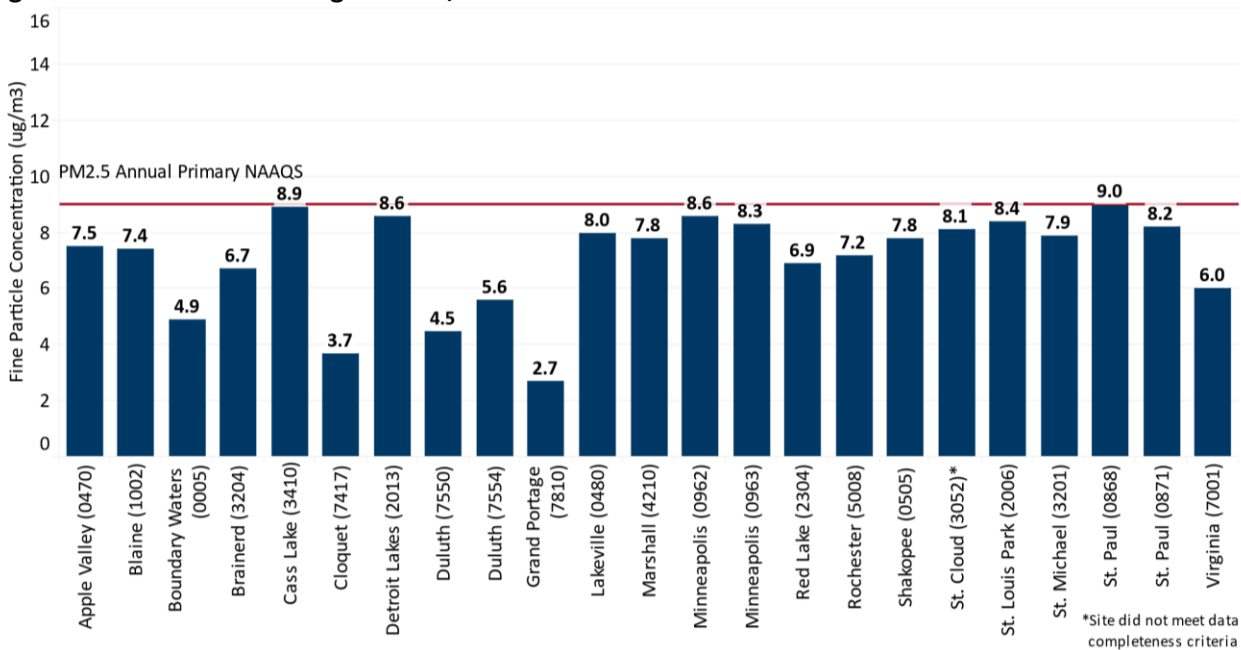


Figure 2. Twin Cities Metropolitan Area PM_{2.5} monitoring sites 2021-2023



The PM_{2.5} annual design values from 2021-2023 are also shown in Figure 3. This is the same data as presented above but in a different format.

Figure 3. PM_{2.5} Annual Design Values, 2021-2023



For these reasons, Governor Walz recommends that all the counties in Minnesota be designated attainment for the 2024 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS. The Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, duly authorized by the Governor of the State of Minnesota, is submitting this data and recommendation on behalf of Governor Walz.