



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Commissioner

February 6, 2025

Via eSIP

Michael Martucci, Regional Administrator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 2

290 Broadway

New York, NY 10007-1866

**Re: New Jersey Area Designation Recommendation for
2024 Revised Primary Annual Fine Particle (PM_{2.5})
National Ambient Air Quality Standard**

Dear Regional Administrator Martucci,

I was glad to make your acquaintance on February 4, 2025 and look forward to working together to build upon the strong relationship that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and Region 2 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) have developed over many years of partnership. As I mentioned briefly during our initial meeting, the State of New Jersey is proud of its efforts to reduce fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) pollution and is pleased to submit the within National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) attainment recommendation for USEPA consideration.

On February 7, 2024, USEPA promulgated a revised primary annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS of 9.0 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³). Section 107(d)(1)(A) of the federal Clean Air Act requires that each state submit its recommendations for areas to be designated attainment, nonattainment, or unclassifiable, no later than one year after USEPA promulgates a new or revised NAAQS.

In accordance with the Clear Air Act, the State of New Jersey hereby recommends that the entire State be designated as in attainment of the revised primary annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS of 9.0 µg/m³ and that all New Jersey counties be excluded from any potential nonattainment counties in their combined statistical areas (CSAs) and core based statistical area (CBSA). New Jersey makes these recommendations because it is expected that all monitors in New Jersey will demonstrate attainment and meet the revised annual primary PM_{2.5} NAAQS of 9.0 µg/m³ with certified, ambient air quality monitoring data from 2022 to 2024. At this time, the 2024 data is preliminary until the data undergoes quality assurance review and is submitted to USEPA.

New Jersey conducted its PM_{2.5} NAAQS analysis in accordance with USEPA guidance and based on certified monitoring data up to 2023. The State's analysis is attached to this letter.

New Jersey is part of the New York-Newark (NY-NJ-CT-PA) CSA, the Philadelphia-Reading-Camden (PA-NJ-DE-MD) CSA, and the Allentown-Bethlehem-East Stroudsburg (PA-NJ) CSA. Notably, current monitoring data is not representative of New Jersey's ambient air quality due to the transport of wildfire smoke from Canada and the western United States during 2021 and 2023. Due to the influence of these wildfires, two monitoring sites in New Jersey measured above the standard in 2023 at Camden County (Camden Spruce Street monitor) and Union County (Elizabeth Lab monitor). New Jersey has submitted an Exceptional Event Analysis to USEPA for the 2023 Canadian wildfires and is awaiting concurrence to exclude the data from design value calculations for compliance with the 2024 PM_{2.5} NAAQS. While the 2021 monitoring data is incorporated into New Jersey's analysis as part of the 2023 certified design values, the 2021 monitoring data and impacts from the 2021 wildfires are not relevant with respect to determining compliance with the standard based on 2024 design values, which are calculated with data from 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Importantly, New Jersey has implemented significant multi-pollutant air quality control measures across the state that have reduced and will continue to reduce emissions of PM_{2.5} and its precursors. Furthermore, the last coal-fired power plants in New Jersey (Logan Generating Plant and Carneys Point Generating Plant) ceased operations in 2022, which will have a significant beneficial impact on future air quality. New Jersey's actions have resulted in a historical decreasing trend of fine particulate matter air pollution that is anticipated to continue into the future, which benefits human health and the environment.

Should USEPA wish to discuss New Jersey's PM_{2.5} recommendations, we invite you to contact Francis C. Steitz, Director of the NJDEP Division of Air Quality at (609) 940-5707 or francis.steitz@dep.nj.gov.

Sincerely,



Shawn M. LaTourette
Commissioner

Attachment

c: *via email (letter only)*

Matthew Laurita, Acting Director, Air and Radiation Division, USEPA Region 2

Kirk Wieber, Chief, Air Programs Branch, USEPA Region 2

Ken Fradkin, Supervisor, Air Planning, USEPA Region 2

Paul Baldauf, Assistant Commissioner for Air, Energy & Materials Sustainability, NJDEP

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