



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

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January 24, 2025

Dan Opalski
Acting Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA, Region 10
1200 Sixth Street, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: Initial Area Designation Recommendations for the Revised PM_{2.5} NAAQS

Dear Acting Administrator Opalski,

I am presenting my recommendations for initial area designations in the State of Oregon for the revised annual fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), as required in the Final Rule published in the Federal Register (89 FR 16202) on March 6, 2024.

To inform these recommendations, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) analyzed PM_{2.5} data collected in 2022, 2023 and 2024, and collected from ambient monitoring sites in the State and Local Air Monitoring Stations (SLAMS) network. At these sites, data is collected using a Federal Reference Method or Federal Equivalent Method monitor operated in accordance with 40 CFR 58. Because wildfire smoke regularly impacts air quality in Oregon, DEQ excluded smoke-impacted PM_{2.5} data that met criteria set forth in the 2016 Exceptional Event Rule (codified in 40 CFR 50.1, 50.14 and 51.930). To support data exclusion, DEQ submitted an exceptional event report for 2022 PM_{2.5} data to EPA Region 10 on November 9, 2023. DEQ will also submit a report for 2023 PM_{2.5} data by February 7, 2025, and another report for 2024 PM_{2.5} data by September 30, 2025.

Based on these quality-assured and federally-certified monitoring data, all SLAMS sites will meet the revised annual PM_{2.5} standard of 9.0 µg/m³ upon EPA concurrence of Oregon's exceptional events for 2022, 2023 and 2024. Thus, I recommend the entire state be designated "attainment/unclassifiable".

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Orman, Air Quality Planning Section Manager for the DEQ, at (503) 229-5177.

Sincerely,

Leah Feldon
Director