

Public Notice
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Redesignation and Maintenance Plan for the Columbus Annual PM_{2.5}
Nonattainment Area

Coshocton, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, and Licking Counties

Notice is hereby given that the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, (Ohio EPA) is requesting that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) revise the current air quality designation for the Columbus area, including Coshocton, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, and Licking counties to attainment with respect to the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS). Fine particle pollution or PM_{2.5} is a mixture of microscopic solids and liquid droplets suspended in air that is 2.5 micrometers in diameter and smaller – 1/30th the diameter of a human hair. PM_{2.5} can be emitted directly or formed secondarily in the atmosphere. Air quality monitoring data collected between 2008 and 2010 in the region demonstrate attainment of the NAAQS and there is evidence that the improved air quality is due to permanent, enforceable emission reductions. In addition, existing requirements are sufficient to maintain the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} standard in this area at least ten years into the future.

Computer models show that existing state and federal emission reduction requirements are sufficient to attain and maintain the NAAQS in the Columbus area. Therefore, Ohio EPA proposes to utilize existing emission inventory information and projections of future emissions as the demonstration of the ability to maintain the NAAQS in the Columbus area in the future.

The Columbus area is currently designated as nonattainment for the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} standard. As part of an acceptable maintenance plan, Ohio EPA is required to develop a contingency plan to provide for additional emission reductions if a violation of the NAAQS is monitored after the area has been redesignated. The plan which Ohio EPA is proposing to USEPA as part of this redesignation contains reductions which will help alleviate the ambient problem until a revised SIP can be developed.

The State of Ohio proposes to:

1. Request the U.S. EPA redesignate the Columbus area to attainment with respect to the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS and revise the maintenance plan. This request will document that existing enforceable control measures are responsible for the observed improvement in air quality.
2. Designate existing controls as sufficient to maintain the NAAQS into the future.
3. Commit to the proposed contingency plan.

These actions must be noticed to allow public comment and to satisfy USEPA requirements for public involvement in SIP related activities. This notice addresses Ohio EPA's reliance on the emission projections as evidence of attainment and maintenance and the commitment to institute contingency measures if ambient exceedances or violations trigger the contingency plan requirements. Written comments will be received on or before April 21, 2011 at the following address:

E-mail: Carolina.Prado@epa.state.oh.us

Mailing address: Carolina Prado
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, DAPC
Lazarus Government Center
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049
Phone: (614)- 728-1743

Pursuant to Section 119.03 of the Ohio Revised Code, a public hearing on this redesignation request will be conducted as follows: April 21, 2011 at 1:30 PM, at Ohio EPA's Central Office located at 50 West Town Street, Columbus, Ohio.

All interested persons are entitled to attend or be represented at the hearings and give written or oral comments on these changes. All oral comments presented at the hearing, and all written statements submitted at the hearing or to the above address by the close of business on April 21, 2011 will be considered by Ohio EPA prior to final action on this redesignation. Written statements submitted after April 21, 2011 may be considered as time and circumstances permit, but will not be part of the official record of the hearing.

This redesignation and maintenance request is available on Ohio EPA DAPC's Web page for electronic downloading at: <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/SIP/annual.aspx>. Questions regarding accessing the web site should be directed to Arunee Niamlarb at 614-728-1342; other questions or comments about this document should be directed to either Carolina Prado, (614)-644-2310, Carolina.Prado@epa.state.oh.us or Jennifer Hunter at (614) 644-3696, Jennifer.Hunter@epa.state.oh.us or mailed to Carolina Prado or Jennifer Hunter at the above address.