

FOR RELEASE: April 24, 2012
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**Ohio EPA Proposes Updates to Ambient Air Quality
And Emergency Episode Standards**

Ohio EPA is proposing amendments to ambient air quality and emergency episode standards to make them the same as the federal rules. A public hearing will be held on Monday, May 7, 2012.

The hearing is at 10:30 a.m. in conference room B at Ohio EPA, Lazarus Government Center, 50 West Town Street, Suite 700, Columbus. The public hearing will end when all interested parties have had an opportunity to comment. Written comments must be submitted by the close of business on May 7 to be considered in the official record. All those planning to attend must bring identification to register at the building's security desk.

Ohio EPA is required to establish a state implementation plan for attaining and maintaining national ambient air quality standard. The proposed changes will modify Ohio's existing plan.

In this plan, Ohio EPA would include the 2008 primary and secondary ozone standards of .075 parts per million, which U.S. EPA has already done. Including the 2008 ozone standard in this rulemaking makes Ohio's standard equivalent to the federal standard.

Other major changes would include:

- adding "midnight to midnight" and "averaged over three years" to the particulate matter standard text;
- removing the sulfur dioxide concentration limits that are listed in micrometers per cubic meter and adding concentration limits for sulfur dioxide to match federal standards;
- removing the nitrogen dioxide concentration limits that are listed in micrometers per cubic meter and adding concentration limits for nitrogen dioxide to match federal standards;
- changing the averaging period for lead to a federal standard that is numerically more stringent; and
- adding that compliance for three consecutive calendar years at or below the lead standard would establish compliance.

The [amendments are available](#) online for public review by scrolling down to the ambient air quality proposal entry. Copies also may be requested, or written comments may be submitted to Paul Braun, Ohio EPA Division of Air Pollution Control, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049, or email paul.braun@epa.state.oh.us.