

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND HEARING

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is offering an opportunity for public comment, and will hold a public hearing, on the *Proposed Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for the West Virginia Portion of the Wheeling, WV-OH 1997 PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Area*. The document concerns two inter-related actions regarding the West Virginia portion of the nonattainment area, comprising Marshall and Ohio Counties. First, DEP is requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) redesignate the area to attainment pursuant to the provisions of the Clean Air Act, section 107. Second, DEP is asking that EPA concurrently approve, as a revision to the State Implementation Plan (SIP), the related maintenance plan which demonstrates that the area will continue to meet the PM_{2.5} air quality standards for at least ten more years. DEP is expressly soliciting comment on whether the proposed maintenance plan adequately meets the requirements of the Clean Air Act, section 175A, as well as any relevant comments regarding the incorporation of the finalized maintenance plan into the West Virginia SIP. The comment period will begin on January 27, 2012 and end on February 28, 2012.

The area was designated as nonattainment with the 1997 PM_{2.5} annual National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) in the January 5, 2005 Federal Register [70 FR 944], effective April 5, 2005. On November 20, 2009, in accordance with Section 179(c)(1) of the CAA, EPA determined that the Wheeling, WV-OH PM_{2.5} nonattainment area had attained the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS by the applicable attainment date of April 5, 2010 [76 FR 75465]. DEP shows that the measured air quality improvement has been achieved through federally enforceable emission reduction measures. Further, DEP shows that with expected growth and federally enforceable controls, the area will continue attainment of the NAAQS for at least ten years.

Written and oral comments will be accepted until the close of the public hearing and will be made part of the formal record. The public hearing shall be held beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at DEP headquarters: 601 57th Street, SE, Charleston, WV 25304. Written comments will also be accepted for inclusion in the formal record by mail, facsimile (304-926-0479), e-mail (Tammy.L.Mowrer@wv.gov) or other delivery to the Division of Air Quality if received by the close of business on February 28, 2012. Send written comments to be included in the formal record to John A. Benedict, Director, Division of Air Quality at the address above. Please identify the document to which the comments apply, the commenter's name, address and telephone number.

Copies of the proposed SIP revision and documentation may be viewed on weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Division of Air Quality, 601 57th Street, SE, Charleston, WV 25304. Copies may alternatively be reviewed at the Bel-O-Mar Regional Council at 105 Bridge Street Plaza, Wheeling, WV 26003, phone (304) 242-1800. The relevant documents may also be accessed via the following web address:

<http://www.dep.wv.gov/daq/General/Pages/PublicNoticeandComment.aspx>