

DEQ submitted to EPA a maintenance plan and a request for redesignation of the area to attainment.³ Idaho provided supplemental information on July 10, 2003 and July 21, 2003.

5. What Are the Air Quality Characteristics of the Area?

The Ada County/Boise, Idaho area is located in the southwestern part of Idaho and encompasses the northern half of Ada County. For a legal description of the boundaries, see 40 CFR 81.313. The area includes the City of Boise and some, but not all, of the surrounding suburbs. The Boise Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes Ada County and Canyon County, is currently one of the fastest growing metropolitan regions in the nation with a 2001 population of over 452,000. Four additional counties make up the remainder of a larger region known as the Treasure Valley.

Located in the Boise River Valley, the Ada County/Boise, Idaho area is prone to periods of air stagnation conditions due to atmospheric inversions, especially during the winter. Stagnation periods, combined with primary and secondary emissions of PM₁₀, have led to exceedances of the PM₁₀ NAAQS. As a result, the maintenance plan submitted by the State focuses particularly on periods of air stagnation when high levels of PM₁₀ in the area are most likely.

Since 1991, only one exceedance of the 24-hour standard in the Ada County/Boise, Idaho area has been recorded. There have been six other exceedances, all measured in winter months and recorded in 1991 or earlier. There have been no exceedances of the annual PM₁₀ standard since the PM₁₀ standard was promulgated in 1987.

6. What Criteria Did EPA Use To Review the Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan?

The criteria used to review the maintenance plan and redesignation request are derived from the Act, the General Preamble, and a policy and guidance memorandum from John Calcagni, September 4, 1992, *Procedures for Processing Requests to Redesignate Areas to Attainment*. Section 107(d)(3)(E) of the Act states that the EPA can be redesignate an area to attainment if the following conditions are met:

1. The Administrator has determined the area has attained the NAAQS.

2. The Administrator has fully approved the applicable implementation plan under Section 110(k).

3. The Administrator has determined that the improvement in air quality is due to permanent and enforceable reductions in emissions.

4. The State has met all applicable requirements for the area under Section 110 and Part D.

5. The Administrator has fully approved a maintenance plan, including a contingency plan, for the area under Section 175A.

7. How Does the State Show That the Area Has Attained the PM₁₀ NAAQS?

Demonstrating that an area has attained the PM₁₀ NAAQS involves submission of ambient air quality data from an ambient air monitoring network representing peak PM₁₀ concentrations. The data should be stored in the EPA Air Quality System. The 24-hour PM₁₀ NAAQS is 150 ug/m³. An area has attained the 24-hour standard when the average number of expected exceedances per year is less than or equal to one, when averaged over a three year period. (40 CFR 50.6) To make this determination, three consecutive years of complete ambient air quality data must be collected in accordance with federal requirements (40 CFR part 58, including appendices).

An attainment determination was made for 1999–2001 (to include the 1999 baseline inventory year) as well as 2000–2002 (to reflect most recent data). The data in EPA's Air Quality System show no exceedances of the 24-hour PM₁₀ standard in the Ada County/Boise, Idaho Area during any of those four years (1999, 2000, 2001, or 2002). Therefore, the average annual number of expected exceedances of the 24 hour standard for both periods, 1999–2001 and 2000–2002 is zero. Thus, the Ada County/Boise, Idaho Area is in attainment with the 24-hour PM₁₀ NAAQS.

The annual PM₁₀ NAAQS is 50 ug/m³. To determine attainment, the standard is compared to the expected annual mean, which is the average of the weighted annual mean for three consecutive years. The weighted annual mean for each year, 1999 through 2002, is below 50 ug/m³ at all monitoring sites (it ranged from 18 ug/m³ to 34 ug/m³). Consequently the three year weighted annual mean is below 50 ug/m³. Thus the Ada County/Boise, Idaho Area is in attainment with the annual PM₁₀ NAAQS.

8. Does the Area Have a Fully Approved Nonattainment SIP?

States containing initial moderate PM₁₀ nonattainment areas were required to submit a SIP by November 15, 1991, which implemented reasonably available control measures (RACM) by December 10, 1993, and demonstrated attainment of the PM₁₀ NAAQS by December 31, 1994. The SIP for the area must be fully approved under Section 110(k) of the Act, and must satisfy all requirements that apply to the area. On May 30, 1996, (61 FR 27019), EPA fully approved the Ada County/Boise, Idaho PM₁₀ nonattainment area SIP originally submitted by the State on November 14, 1991, and supplemented on December 30, 1994 and July 13, 1995. The Part D NSR rules for PM₁₀ nonattainment areas were approved on July 23, 1993 (58 FR 39445) and amended on January 16, 2003 (68 FR 2217). The Ada County/Boise, Idaho PM₁₀ nonattainment SIP demonstrated attainment of the PM₁₀ NAAQS by December 31, 1994. Thus, the area has a fully approved nonattainment SIP.

9. Are the Improvements in Air Quality Which Warrant This Redesignation Permanent and Enforceable?

The State must be able to reasonably attribute the improvement in air quality to permanent and enforceable emission reductions. In making this showing, the State must demonstrate that air quality improvements are the result of actual enforceable emission reductions. This showing should consider emission rates, production capacities, and other related information. The analysis should assume that sources are operating at permitted levels (or historic peak levels) unless evidence is presented that such an assumption is unrealistic.

Idaho has demonstrated that the air quality improvements in the Ada County/Boise, Idaho area are the result of permanent enforceable emission reductions and not a result of either economic trends or meteorology. EPA concludes that the modeling demonstration shows that the area will meet the NAAQS, even under worst case meteorological conditions. The modeling demonstration assumes emission rates corresponding to the control measures relied on by the 1991 PM₁₀ SIP for the area (which are still being implemented and relied on by the maintenance plan) as well as the terms and conditions limiting primary and secondary particulate matter emissions in newly-issued Tier II operating permits for twelve industrial sources. EPA approved the control measures relied on for the 1991 PM₁₀ SIP as

³ Title I, section 107(d)(3)(D) of the Act and the general preamble to Title I, 57 FR 13498 (April 16, 1992), allow the Governor of a State to request the redesignation of an area from nonattainment to attainment.