

Rule Proposal and SIP Revision

Air Quality Program

August 2013

Ambient Air Quality Standards Update

The Department of Ecology proposes updates to Washington's Ambient Air Quality Standards. The rule proposal will be published in the Washington State Register on August 21, 2013. If adopted, Ecology proposes to submit this rule to EPA for inclusion into the Washington State Implementation Plan (SIP). The SIP is a statewide plan for meeting air quality standards.

What is the purpose of the rule proposal?

The purpose of this rule proposal is to:

- Update the state's ambient air quality standards to include the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for criteria pollutants. These health-based standards are required by the state and federal Clean Air Acts. They protect sensitive populations including children, elderly, and people with heart and lung disease.
- Adopt the current NAAQS for the following air pollutants into a new chapter:
 - Fine particles (PM₁₀)
 - Smaller fine particles (PM_{2.5})
 - Lead (Pb)
 - Sulfur oxides (SO_x) (except for the annual and 24-hour standards)
 - Nitrogen oxides (NO_x)
 - Ozone (O₃)
 - Carbon monoxide (CO)
- Retain Washington's current annual and 24-hour state standards for sulfur oxides until one year after EPA designates attainment status for the 1-hour SO₂ standard.
- Repeal the state ambient air quality standards contained in the following chapters because the standards in the new rule include updated versions of these standards. Ecology will make minor housekeeping revisions to the content of these repealed rules when including the content in the new rule.
 - Chapter 173-470 WAC, Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter
 - Chapter 173-474 WAC, Ambient Air Quality Standards for Sulfur Oxides
 - Chapter 173-475 WAC, Ambient Air Quality Standards for Carbon Monoxide, Ozone, and Nitrogen Dioxide

What is the purpose of the SIP revision?

The purpose of the SIP revision is to include these updated ambient air quality standards into the SIP in order to meet federal Clean Air Act requirements.

MORE INFORMATION

Public comment period:

August 7, 2013 -
September 19, 2013

Public Hearing:

Two consecutive public hearings will be held for the rule proposal and SIP revision.

Date:

Sept. 10, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Location:

Department of Ecology HQ
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Web site:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/progr/ams/air/rules/rules_laws.html#current

Contact information:

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Special accommodations:

For special accommodations or documents in alternate format, call (360) 407-6800, 711 (relay service), or 877-833-6341 (TTY).

The SIP revision submittal requests two actions from EPA:

- Remove Chapter 173-470 WAC from the SIP after it is repealed from the state regulations.
- Approve Chapter 173-476 WAC into the SIP.

Inclusion of the revised ambient air quality standards in the SIP will allow Ecology to meet several requirements contained in Section 110 of the federal Clean Air Act.

What documents are available for review and comment?

- Rule documents, including:
 - Proposed rule language
 - Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)
 - Preliminary Cost-Benefit and Least Burdensome Alternative Analyses
- Proposed SIP language

Public hearings

Ecology will hold two consecutive public hearings on September 10, 2013. During the first hearing, Ecology will explain the updated rule, answer questions, and then invite comments on the proposed rule. A second hearing will immediately follow the rule proposal hearing. At this hearing, Ecology will invite comments about the proposal to remove repealed Chapter 173-470 WAC from the SIP and submit Chapter 173-476 WAC to EPA for inclusion in the SIP. The rule revisions meet the requirements of Section 110 of the federal Clean Air Act.

Public comment period

You can comment on the rule and the proposal to include it in the SIP from August 7, 2013 through September 19, 2013. Please clearly identify your comments as whether they are addressing the rule, the proposed SIP action, or both.

Submit your comments

Submit your official comments in the following ways:

- Testify or submit written comments at the public hearing.
- E-mail comments to: AQComments@ecy.wa.gov
- Mail comments to:
Washington Department of Ecology
Margo Thompson
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
- FAX comments to: 360-407-7534

Ecology's response to your comments

All of the comments we receive will become part of the official record. We will publish responses to comments in a document called a Concise Explanatory Statement (CES). You will find your name listed in the document with a reference to where, in the document, Ecology responded to your comments.

Expected adoption date

Ecology expects to adopt this rule after October 15, 2013.

