



Allegheny County and the National Ambient Air Quality  
Standards for Fine Particulates

24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Fine Particulates (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)  
(Allegheny County)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Document</u>
July 18, 1997	Fine Particulates were first classified as a separate criteria pollutant from particulate matter (PM10). EPA set the 24-hour standard at 65 ug/m <sup>3</sup> and the annual standard at 15.0 ug/m <sup>3</sup> .	62 Fed. Reg. 38,652, 38,711 (to be codified at 40 CFR 50.7(a))
October 17, 2006	EPA lowered the 24-hour standard to 35 ug/m <sup>3</sup> , but did not change the annual standard of 15.0 ug/m <sup>3</sup> .	71 Fed. Reg. 61,144, 61,224 (to be codified at 40 CFR 50.13(a))
November 13, 2009	EPA designated part of Allegheny County (Clairton City and the boroughs of Glassport, Liberty, Lincoln, and Port Vue) as nonattainment for the 2006 24-hour standard, effective December 14, 2009	74 Fed. Reg. 58,688, 58,758-58,759 (to be codified at 40 CFR 81.339 (Pennsylvania))
	The five year attainment date was December 14, 2009, within five years of a designation of nonattainment).	See 74 Fed. Reg. 58,688
October 25, 2013	EPA made a determination that the Liberty-Clairton area had attained the 1997 annual standard (15.0 ug/m <sup>3</sup> ) by the applicable attainment date of December 31, 2011, which had the effect of suspending the County's obligation to perform various	78 Fed. Reg. 63,881, 63,883 (to be codified at 40 CFR 52.2056(j), 52.2059(i))

	<p>actions to achieve attainment, under its Clean Data Policy.</p> <p>These actions include (1) the requirements for this area to submit an attainment demonstration, (2) associated reasonably available control measures, (3) a reasonable further progress plan, (4) contingency measures, and (5) other planning SIPs related to attainment of the standard.</p>	
<u>June 2, 2014</u>	<p>EPA designated part of Allegheny County (Clairton City and the boroughs of Glassport, Liberty, Lincoln, and Port Vue) as nonattainment with the 2006 24-hour standard and the 1997 annual standard. EPA required the submission of remaining SIP revisions by December 31, 2014, the applicable attainment date for both the 24-hour and the annual standards.</p>	<p>See 79 Fed. Reg. 31,566, 31,7xx-31,7xx (to be codified at 40 CFR 81.339 (Pennsylvania))</p>
<u>May 2, 2014</u>	<p>EPA made a determination that the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley area had attained the 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard (35 ug/m<sup>3</sup>) as of May 2, 2014, which had the effect of suspending the obligations of the County to perform various actions to achieve attainment with this particular standard, under its Clean Data Policy. These actions include (1) the requirements for this area to submit an attainment demonstration, (2) associated reasonably available control measures, (3) a reasonable further progress plan, (4) contingency measures, and (5) other planning SIPs related to attainment of the standard.</p>	<p>79 Fed. Reg. 25,014, 25,018 (to be codified at 40 CFR 52.2059(j)).</p>

Annual National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Fine Particulates (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)  
(Allegheny County)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Document</u>
January 15, 2013	EPA lowered the annual standard from 15.0 ug/m <sup>3</sup> to 12.0 ug/m <sup>3</sup> .	78 Fed. Reg. 3086, 3277 (to be codified at 40 CFR 50.18(a))
January 15, 2015	EPA designated Allegheny County as nonattainment for the 2013 annual standard.	80 Fed. Reg. 2206, 2264 (to be codified at 40 CFR 81.339)
	On a separate page of the notice, EPA designated the “remainder” of Allegheny County as being unclassifiable/attainment, but this was a typographical error that was corrected in a subsequent notice.	80 Fed. Reg. 2266 (to be codified at 40 CFR 81.339)
Technical Support Document: Area Designations for the PM <sub>2.5</sub> Primary Annual National Ambient Air Quality Standard	On July 30, 2014, the Commonwealth had proposed to designate all of Allegheny County as an attainment area for the 2013 annual standard, with the exception of Liberty-Clairton, because only the design values for Liberty Clairton showed nonattainment. EPA disagreed with the Commonwealth’s recommendation to limit the nonattainment area to Liberty-Clairton, because all of Allegheny County continues to contribute to the design value exceedances in Liberty-Clairton. Therefore, EPA determined that all of Allegheny County will continue to be	

	designated as nonattainment for the annual PM2.5 standard.	
April 7, 2015	<p>This notice corrects the error in the previous notice in which EPA designated the “remainder” of Allegheny County as being unclassifiable/attainment (80 Fed. Reg. 2266)</p> <p>“This technical amendment clarifies that the entirety of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania is designated nonattainment.”</p>	80 Fed. Reg. 18,535, 18,537-18,538, 18,549 .