



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

November 8, 2011

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Jan Brewer
Governor of Arizona
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Brewer:

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is completing area designations for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Based on the most recent air quality monitoring data, the EPA is designating Hayden, Arizona area as unclassifiable, and the rest of the State as unclassifiable/attainment. I appreciate the information that Arizona shared with the EPA throughout this process as we take this step to inform citizens about their air quality and continue the process of protecting public health by reducing lead levels in the air where necessary.

Reducing levels of lead pollution is an important part of the EPA's commitment to a clean, healthy environment. Lead exposure can cause a range of adverse health effects, most notably in children. Exposures to low levels of lead early in life have been linked to effects on Intelligence Quotient, learning, memory and behavior.

On October 15, 2008, the EPA substantially strengthened the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for lead. The level of the 2008 lead standards, set at 0.15 micrograms per cubic meter, is 10 times tighter than the previous standards. In conjunction with strengthening the lead standards, the EPA has improved the existing lead monitoring network by requiring monitors to be placed in areas with sources, such as industrial facilities, that emit one-half ton or more per year of lead, and at other sites.

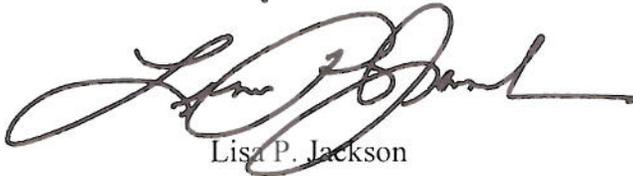
The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to complete the process of designating areas within two years of establishing a new or revised air quality standard. The EPA may extend the designation process by up to one year if the agency has insufficient information to make these designations. Because the expanded lead monitoring network provided additional data for consideration, the EPA is completing the lead designations in two rounds. In the first round, established on November 16, 2010, the EPA designated as "nonattainment" 16 areas that violated the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards based on data from the pre-2010 monitoring network. For all other areas, the EPA extended the deadline for designations by up to one year so that data from the newly deployed monitors could be considered in making appropriate designation decisions. States and tribes were given an opportunity to update their recommendation letters for those remaining areas for our consideration in the second round of designations by December 15, 2010. The EPA notified states and tribes of our preliminary responses to their recommendations on June 15, 2011.

Monitors in the Hayden area that began collecting data in 2011 have measured high levels of lead, on some days recording concentrations two to three times the level of the standards. These preliminary data indicate that violations of the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards may be occurring, and it is for this reason that we are designating the area as unclassifiable in this action. We are committed to continuing to work with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to ensure that quality assured, certified data are available in the very near future to allow us to accurately assess air quality for this area. Should we determine that the lead standards are being violated, we intend to begin the process to redesignate the Hayden area as nonattainment.

For areas designated (or redesignated) as nonattainment, states must develop a State Implementation Plan that meets the requirements of the Clean Air Act. These State Implementation Plans must be submitted to the EPA within 18 months of the effective date of the designation. The nonattainment areas must attain the lead standards as expeditiously as practicable, but no later than five years after designation. Staff in your EPA regional office is available to answer questions and discuss implementation matters further with your staff.

Thank you for your continued work to improve air quality. We look forward to working with you and your staff to reduce lead in the air. For additional technical information, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/leaddesignations>.

Sincerely,



Lisa P. Jackson