

Request for Public Comments on Exceptional Events in the Greater Phoenix Area

In 2005, Congress identified a need to account for events that result in exceedances of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) that are exceptional in nature (e.g., not expected to reoccur or caused by acts of nature beyond man-made controls.) In response, EPA promulgated the Exceptional Events Rule (EER) to address exceptional events in 40 CFR Parts 50 and 51 on March 22, 2007 (72 FR 13560). On May 10, 2013, EPA released interim guidance documents to State, tribal and local air agencies for review. These guidance documents clarify key provisions of the 2007 EER in response to questions and issues that have arisen since the rule was promulgated. The EER allows for states and tribes to “flag” air quality monitoring data as an exceptional event. If flagged, these data can be excluded from consideration in air quality planning if EPA concurs with the demonstration submitted by the flagging agency documenting that all procedural and technical requirements have been met.

Pursuant to 40 CFR 50.14(c)(3)(i), the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is soliciting comments on its final demonstrations of events that have caused elevated concentrations of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} in the Greater Phoenix Area on June 30, and elevated concentrations of PM₁₀ on July 2, August 17, August 26, and October 9, 2013. ADEQ has decided to flag these episodes based on these analyses. Copies of the demonstrations are available for review beginning Monday, January 13, 2014 on the ADEQ website at www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/plan/nee.html. Interested parties can submit written comments throughout the comment period which will end at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2014. Any comments received will be responded to and forwarded to EPA with the final demonstrations.

Written comments should be addressed, faxed, or e-mailed to:

Andra Juniel, Air Assessment Section, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, 1110 W. Washington Street, 3415-A, Phoenix, AZ 85007, PHONE: (602) 771-4417; FAX: (602) 771-2366, E-mail: juniel.andra@azdeq.gov.

In addition to being available on-line, copies of the analyses are available for review, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the ADEQ Records Management Center, 1110 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ, 85007, Attn: Records Center, (602) 771-4380, email: recordscenter@azdeq.gov.

Persons with a disability may request reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Alicia Pollard at (602) 771-4791 or at pollard.alicia@azdeq.gov. The TDD line for hearing impaired individuals is (602) 771-4829. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange for the accommodation.