

**Public Notice**  
**Ohio Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Redesignation and Maintenance Plan for the Ohio Portion of the**  
**Wheeling, WV-OH**  
**Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> Nonattainment Area**

**Belmont County, Ohio**

Notice is hereby given that the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) is requesting that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) revise the current air quality designation for the Ohio portion (Belmont County) of the Wheeling, WV-OH area, to attainment with respect to the 1997 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS). Air quality monitoring data collected between 2008 and 2010 in the region demonstrate attainment of the NAAQS and there is evidence that the improved air quality is due to permanent, enforceable emission reductions. In addition, existing requirements are sufficient to maintain the 1997 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard in this area at least ten years into the future.

Computer models show that existing state and federal emission reduction requirements are sufficient to attain and maintain the NAAQS in the Wheeling area. Therefore, Ohio EPA proposes to utilize existing emission inventory information and projections of future emissions as the demonstration of the ability to maintain the NAAQS in the Wheeling area in the future.

The Wheeling area is currently designated as nonattainment for the 1997 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard. As part of an acceptable maintenance plan, Ohio EPA has developed, as required, a contingency plan to provide for additional emission reductions if a violation of the NAAQS is monitored after the area has been redesignated.

The State of Ohio proposes to:

1. Request the U.S. EPA redesignate the Ohio portion of the Wheeling, WV-OH area to attainment with respect to the 1997 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS and revise the maintenance plan. This request will document that existing enforceable control measures are responsible for the observed improvement in air quality.
2. Designate existing controls as sufficient to maintain the NAAQS into the future.
3. Commit to the proposed contingency plan.

These actions must be noticed to allow public comment and to satisfy USEPA requirements for public involvement in SIP-related activities. This notice addresses Ohio EPA's reliance on the emission projections as evidence of attainment and maintenance and the commitment to institute contingency measures if ambient exceedances or violations trigger the contingency plan requirements. Written comments will be received

on or before April 5, 2012 at the following address:

E-mail: [erica.fetty@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:erica.fetty@epa.state.oh.us)

Mailing address: Erica Fetty  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, DAPC  
Lazarus Government Center  
P.O. Box 1049  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049  
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Pursuant to Section 119.03 of the Ohio Revised Code, a public hearing on this redesignation request will be conducted as follows: **April 5, 2012 at 3:00PM**, at Martins Ferry Library, 20 James Wright Place, Martins Ferry, OH 43935.

All interested persons are entitled to attend or be represented at the hearing and give written or oral comments on these changes. All oral comments presented at the hearing, and all written statements submitted at the hearing or to the above address by the close of business on April 5, 2012 will be considered by Ohio EPA prior to final action on this redesignation. Written statements submitted after April 5, 2012 may be considered as time and circumstances permit, but will not be part of the official record of the hearing.

This redesignation and maintenance request is available on Ohio EPA, DAPC's web page for electronic downloading at: <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/SIP/annual.aspx>. Questions regarding accessing the web site should be directed to Arunee Niamlarb at 614-728-1342; other questions or comments about this document should be directed to Erica Fetty at (614) 644-2310, [Erica.Fetty@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:Erica.Fetty@epa.state.oh.us) or mailed to Erica Fetty at the above address.