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Ohio EPA Requests Recognition of Improved Air Quality in Stark County; Public Hearing to be Held June 6

The State of Ohio plans to ask U.S. EPA to officially recognize that air quality in the Canton-Massillon area meets the 1997 annual and 2006 24-hour federal fine particulate standards.

An Ohio EPA public hearing to take comments on the proposal will be held on June 6, 2012. The hearing will begin at 2:30 p.m., at the Stark County Library, Sandy Valley Branch, 9754 Cleveland Avenue SE, Magnolia.

Air quality data from 2009-2011 show that the Canton-Massillon area meets the 1997 annual and 2006 24-hour national fine particulate matter standards. When asking for redesignation, states are required to demonstrate that the metropolitan area will be able to maintain compliance with the fine particulate standard for 10 years. Current national, state and local air pollution controls to limit particulate emissions will enable the area to maintain the air quality, including: lower emissions from coal-burning power plants, additional controls on diesel-powered vehicles and enforcement efforts.

The proposed redesignation request affects Stark County.

The national fine particulate standard regulates tiny particles, about 1/30th the diameter of a human hair, which lodge deep in human lungs. Particulate matter has been associated with heart attacks, chronic bronchitis, asthma attacks and missed days of school and work.

Comments on the redesignation proposal can be submitted until the close of business on June 6, by email or mail to [Erica Fetty](#), Division of Air Pollution Control, Ohio EPA, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio, 43216-1049. The [annual standard proposal](#) and [24-hour standard proposal](#) is available online or by calling Ohio EPA's Division of Air Pollution Control at (614) 644-2270.

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