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**FOR RELEASE:** May 14, 2012  
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## **Ohio EPA Requests Recognition of Improved Air Quality in Northeast Ohio; Public Hearing to be Held May 21**

The State of Ohio plans to ask U.S. EPA to officially recognize that air quality in the Cleveland-Lorain-Akron area meets the 2006 federal fine particulate standard.

An Ohio EPA public hearing to take comments on the proposal will be held on May 21, 2012. The hearing will begin at 2:30 p.m., at Ohio EPA's Northeast District Office, 2110 E. Aurora Rd., Twinsburg.

Air quality data from 2008-2010 show that the Cleveland-Lorain-Akron area is meeting the 2006 24-hour national fine particulate matter standard. 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 Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit counties.

The national fine particulate standard regulates tiny particles, about 1/30<sup>th</sup> 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 May 21, by email or mail to [Erica Fetty](#) or [Jennifer Dines](#), Division of Air Pollution Control, Ohio EPA, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio, 43216-1049. The [proposal](#) is available online or by calling Ohio EPA's Division of Air Pollution Control at (614) 644-2270.

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