The EPA Redesignates Truckee Meadows to Attainment for the Coarse Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard

November 16, 2015

Summary

- The EPA is approving Nevada's plan for the Truckee Meadows area, also referred to as the Reno planning area, to maintain the inhalable coarse particulate matter 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (PM_{10} NAAQS). These particles are commonly referred to as PM_{10} because they have a diameter of ten micrometers or less.
- The EPA is also approving Nevada's request to redesignate Truckee Meadows to attainment for the PM_{10} NAAQS.

Background

- Today's actions represent a significant accomplishment accomplished primarily through the actions of the Washoe County District Board of Health, whose regulations and programs have greatly reduced PM_{10}.
- With this action, Nevada is currently meeting all the federal health protective standards for clean air. This is a tremendous milestone and reflects cooperation among the public, businesses, local, state and federal agencies throughout the State.
- In 2011 The EPA previously determined that Truckee Meadows had attained the PM_{10} NAAQS. Complete, quality-assured, and certified ambient air quality monitoring data for the area shows it has continued to attain the PM_{10} NAAQS since that time.
- The EPA is concerned about PM_{10} because these particles pass through the throat and nose and enter the lungs. Reducing PM_{10} levels is essential because, once inhaled, these particles can affect the heart and lungs and cause serious health effects.
- PM_{10} is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets. In the Truckee Meadows area it is predominately comprised of "primary particulates," such as particles from soil or dust, residential wood burning, and diesel.

Next Steps

- Today's actions will be published in the Federal Register in approximately two weeks and be effective 30 days after publication.

For More Information:

http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/nv.html#washoe