

## **PROPOSED DESIGNATION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE REVISED 2008 LEAD NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS**

### **Announcement of Public Meetings**

Lead is a metal found naturally in the environment and present in some manufactured products. Larger industrial sources of lead emissions currently include metals processing, particularly primary and secondary lead smelters. Lead that is emitted into the air can be inhaled or, after it settles out of the air, ingested. Ingestion of lead that has settled onto surfaces is the main route of human exposure to lead originally released into the air. Once in the body, lead is rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream and results in a broad range of health effects. Children are most vulnerable to the damaging effects of lead because their bodies are developing rapidly and because they are more likely to ingest lead due to hand-to-mouth activity.

On October 15, 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) substantially strengthened the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for lead; notice of the more protective revised lead NAAQS was published in the *Federal Register* on November 12, 2008 (73 FR 66,964). EPA has revised the level of the primary (health-based) standard from 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter, to 0.15 micrograms per cubic meter, measured as total suspended particles (TSP). EPA has revised the secondary (welfare-based) standard to be identical in all respects to the primary standard. These revised standards are 10 times tighter than the 1978 lead standards of 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter.

The Governor of each state must now submit designation recommendations to EPA in accordance with Section 107(d) of the federal Clean Air Act. Pennsylvania's designation recommendations are based on air quality monitoring data for 2006-2008, emissions data, and other criteria, as recommended by EPA. EPA expects to make final designations by January 2012.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is seeking public input on the following proposed designation recommendations for the 2008 lead NAAQS:

- North Reading nonattainment area comprised of Laureldale Borough, Muhlenberg Township and Alsace Township.
- Lyons nonattainment area comprised of Lyons Borough, Maxatawny Township and Richmond Township.
- Lower Beaver Valley nonattainment area comprised of Industry Borough, Shippingport Borough, Potter Township, Raccoon Township and Vanport Township.

DEP is proposing to recommend that the remainder of the Commonwealth be designated as attainment or unclassifiable. The proposed designation recommendations for the revised lead NAAQS are based on EPA criteria for designating areas including: lead emissions, air quality, population density, expected growth, geography, topography, meteorology, jurisdictional boundaries and the level of emissions control.

This proposal is available on the DEP Web site at <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us> or through the contact person(s) listed below. DEP will hold public informational meetings on October 21, 2009 at 1:00 PM at the following locations:

DEP's Southwest Regional Office  
Waterfront A  
500 Waterfront Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA

Berks County Courthouse & Services Center  
633 Court Street  
13<sup>th</sup> floor  
Reading, PA

For more information on the public meetings, please contact Yvette House at 717-787-9495 ([yhouse@state.pa.us](mailto:yhouse@state.pa.us)). Persons with disabilities who wish to attend a meeting and require an auxiliary aid, service or other accommodation to participate in the proceeding should also contact Yvette House. TDD users may contact the AT&T Relay Service at 800-654-5984 to discuss how the Department can best accommodate their needs.

Written comments on the recommendations should be sent to Arleen Shulman, Chief, Air Resource Management Division, Bureau of Air Quality, DEP, P.O. Box 8468, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8468 or by e-mail (preferred) to [ashulman@state.pa.us](mailto:ashulman@state.pa.us) no later than 4:00 PM on October 23, 2009. Written comments (including e-mail submittals) must include the name, affiliation (if any), mailing address and telephone number of the interested person.

John Hanger  
Secretary