

# AIR NEWS

February 26, 2014 || News from the DNR Bureau of Air Management

---

## EPA says three Wisconsin counties now meet federal PM2.5 health standard

Three Wisconsin counties that previously did not meet the federal health standard for fine particle pollution, also known as PM2.5, are now meeting that standard, according to a recent announcement by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

On February 18, 2014, EPA published a [Federal Register notice](#) proposing to redesignate the three counties to attainment for the 2006 24-hour PM 2.5 health standard. EPA proposes to approve all parts of Wisconsin's plan. The redesignation package addresses projected emission inventories for nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur dioxide (SO2), direct PM 2.5, ammonia, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), as well as addressing the impacts of recent court rulings related to the Cross State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) and other federal rules.

Comments are due to EPA by **March 20, 2014**. See the Federal Register redesignation notice (noted above) for instructions on how to submit comments.

The current 24-hour [National Ambient Air Quality Standard \(NAAQS\) for fine particle pollution](#) was established in 2006. In November 2009, EPA designated Milwaukee, Racine and Waukesha counties as being in 'nonattainment' of the federal health standard for PM2.5, which meant that air quality monitors in these counties showed PM2.5 levels higher than the levels allowed by the federal health standard. All other Wisconsin counties were designated as attaining the standard by EPA and have measured attainment levels since.

Thanks to statewide and regional efforts to limit emissions of pollutants linked to PM2.5, air quality monitoring data in 2008-2010, and in subsequent years, showed PM2.5 concentrations falling to below the levels established in the NAAQS in the Milwaukee, Racine and Waukesha area.

---

[Subscribe](#) now for only \$8.97.



## Featured DNR Subscriptions

[Natural Areas Spotlight](#): Enjoy a weekly photo, maps and highlights of what you can see and do at a featured State Natural Area.

[Quiz of the Week](#): Test your knowledge of Wisconsin's native plants and animals with our weekly quiz and get the chance to win prizes.

[Outdoor Report](#): Current fishing activities, wildlife observations, and state park events updated every Thursday.

---

### [Manage Your DNR Subscriptions](#):

Add new subscriptions, delete subscriptions, and manage your profile. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact [subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com](http://subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com).

Other inquiries can be directed [to the DNR](#).

---