

**BEFORE THE  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will hold a public informational meeting to review its ambient air quality monitoring network throughout Wisconsin.

**Monitoring Network**

In 1981 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) approved a portion of the Wisconsin State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Clean Air Act monitoring plan dealing with air quality surveillance, which is required by Parts 51 and 58 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations. That monitoring plan presented a detailed scheme for ambient air quality monitoring, including a detailed proposal for a comprehensive network of ambient monitors throughout Wisconsin. In addition, the DNR proposed to conduct an annual review of the monitoring network and to notify the public of significant changes in the network by conducting a public informational meeting.

The DNR will review the changes that occurred in 2012 and will present an outline of proposed changes for 2013. An explanation will be provided for each deviation from the previous year's plan as well as the proposed changes. Public comments on the changes will also be received at the informational meeting.

**Exceptional and Uncontrollable Events**

In 1987, 1997, and 2006 the USEPA promulgated ambient air quality standards for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> (see particulate matter definitions below)<sup>1</sup> under 40 CFR 50.6 and 40 CFR 50.7 respectively. Appendix K to 40 CFR part 50, "Interpretation of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for PM<sub>10</sub>", in section 2.4, "Adjustments for Exceptional Events and Trends", allows state agencies conducting monitoring the opportunity to remove monitoring data from consideration for SIP purposes, if the agency can demonstrate that the data resulted from an "exceptional event", provided that the state presents the evidence for its reasons to delete or flag the data. The DNR will post the demonstration document on the DNR public website for at least thirty days. In addition, Appendix N to 40 CFR part 50, "Interpretation of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for PM<sub>2.5</sub>", in section 1.0(b), indicates that in some cases, it may be appropriate to exclude data resulting from uncontrollable or natural events such as structural fires, high winds or wildfires.

Through April 30, 2012 there has been one exceptional or uncontrollable particulate matter events in Wisconsin that influenced design value calculations of which the DNR is aware. The exceptional event was the Pagami Creek fire in northeastern Minnesota which adversely impacted Wisconsin air quality on September 13, 2011 and September 14, 2011. This event and the impacts on the monitoring data will be described during the public informational meeting.

<sup>1</sup> Particle pollution (also known as "particulate matter") in the air includes a mixture of solids and liquid droplets. Some particles are emitted directly; others are formed in the atmosphere when other pollutants react. Particles come in a wide range of sizes. Those less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>) are so small that they can get into the lungs (inhalable particulate matter), potentially causing serious health problems. Ten micrometers is smaller than the width of a single human hair.

- **Fine particles.** Particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) are called "fine" particles. These particles are so small they can be detected only with an electron microscope. Sources of fine particles include all types of combustion, including motor vehicles, power plants, residential wood burning, forest fires, agricultural burning, and some industrial processes.
- **Coarse dust particles.** Particles between 2.5 and 10 micrometers in diameter (PM<sub>10-2.5</sub>) are referred to as "coarse." Sources of coarse particles include crushing or grinding operations, and dust stirred up by vehicles traveling on roads.

The DNR will hold the public informational meeting to review the ambient air quality monitoring network on:

Wednesday, May 23, 2012  
at 1:00 p.m.  
Room 413, GEF II  
101 South Webster Street  
Madison, WI 53703

Written comments on the monitoring network may be submitted directly to:

Mr. Grant Hetherington, c/o Air Monitoring Section, Bureau of Air Management,  
P.O. Box 7921,  
Madison, WI 53707,

no later than noon on Monday, June 4, 2012. Written comments will have the same weight and effect as oral comments presented at the meeting.

A copy of the proposed revision to the Monitoring Plan is available for public inspection at the Bureau of Air Management, 7th Floor, 101 S. Webster Street, Madison, Wisconsin, on the following web address:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/AirQuality/documents/2013NetworkPlanProposed.pdf>

or by mail (at no charge) from Mr. Grant Hetherington at the address noted above.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
Bureau of Air Management

By \_\_\_\_\_ /s/  
Bart Sponseller., Director  
Bureau of Air Management