



Status of the Particulate Matter (PM) Air Quality Standards

November 28, 2012





Current Particulate Matter (PM) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

The current Fine Particle (PM_{2.5}) Standards

- Annual Standard - 15 µg/m³
- 24-Hour Standard – 35 µg/m³

The current Course Particle (PM₁₀) Standard

- 24-Hour Standard - 150 µg/m³

In New England, only Fairfield and New Haven counties in southwestern Connecticut are currently designated as nonattainment of the PM_{2.5} standards.



Proposed New PM Standards

On June 14, 2012, EPA proposed to:

- Strengthen the annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard from $15 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (in place since 1997) to within a range of **$12 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ - $13 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** .
- Retain the existing 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ standard of **$35 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** (in place since 2006).
- Set a separate 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ standard to improve visibility, primarily in urban areas, at 30 or 28 deciviews.
- Retain the existing 24-Hour PM_{10} standard of **$150 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** (in place since 1987).
- Retain the existing secondary standards for $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} .



Additional PM Proposals

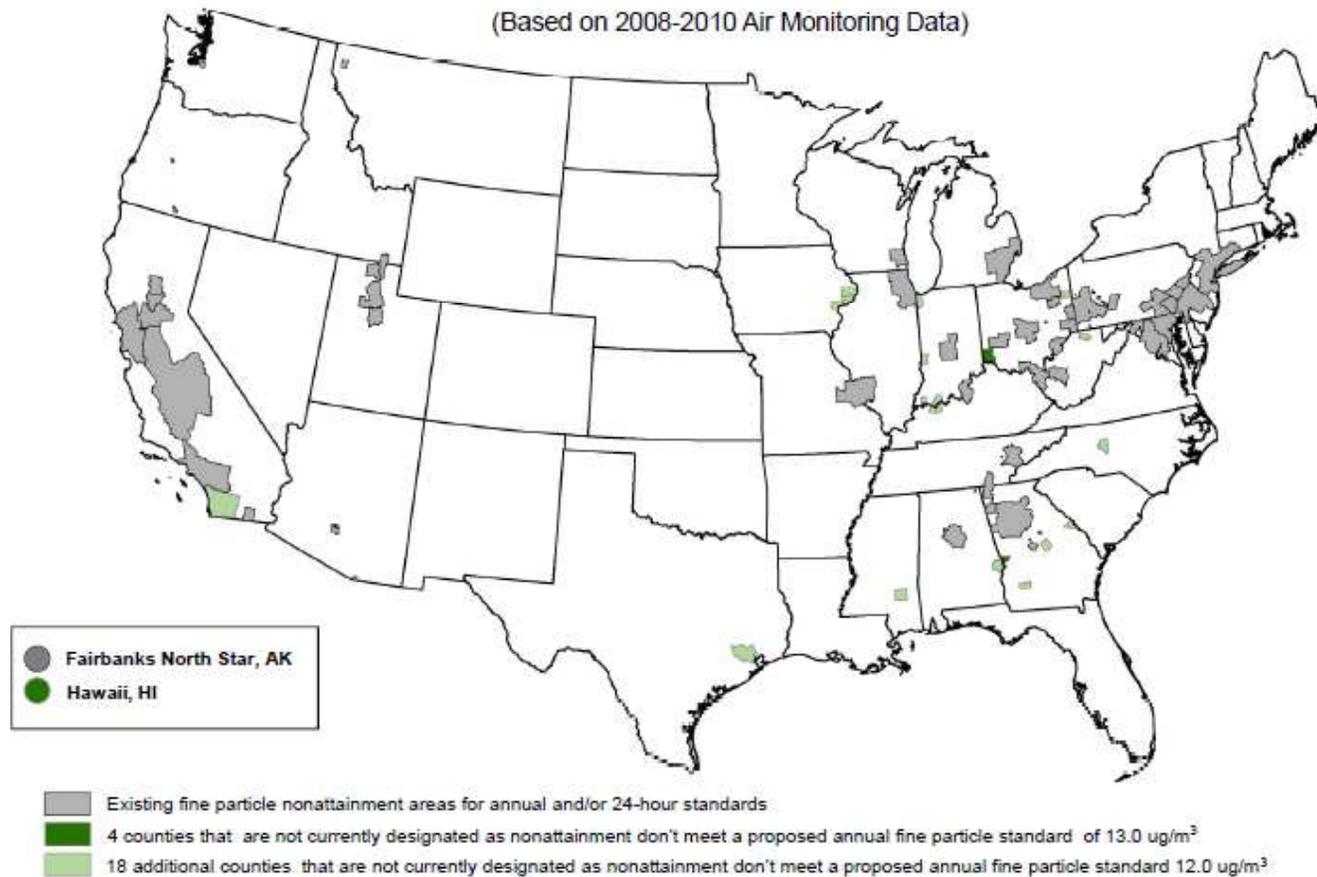
In addition to revising the fine particulate standard, EPA is proposing to:

- Update the nation's PM_{2.5} monitoring network to relocate a small number of monitors to measure near-roadway fine particulate. These near-road monitoring sites will also measure nitrogen dioxide or carbon monoxide. In New England, this will include near-road locations in the Boston, Providence, and Hartford areas.
- Update the Air Quality Index (AQI) for particle pollution.



Monitoring Data Show Few Additional Counties Would Not Meet Proposed Primary Fine Particle Standards

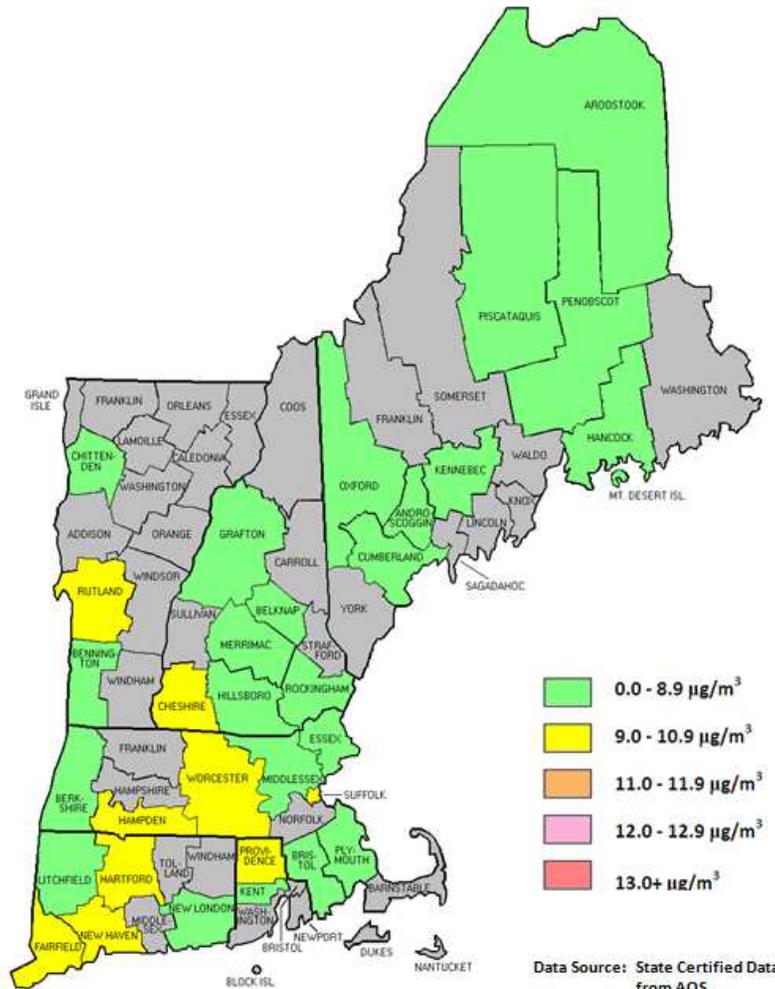
(Based on 2008-2010 Air Monitoring Data)



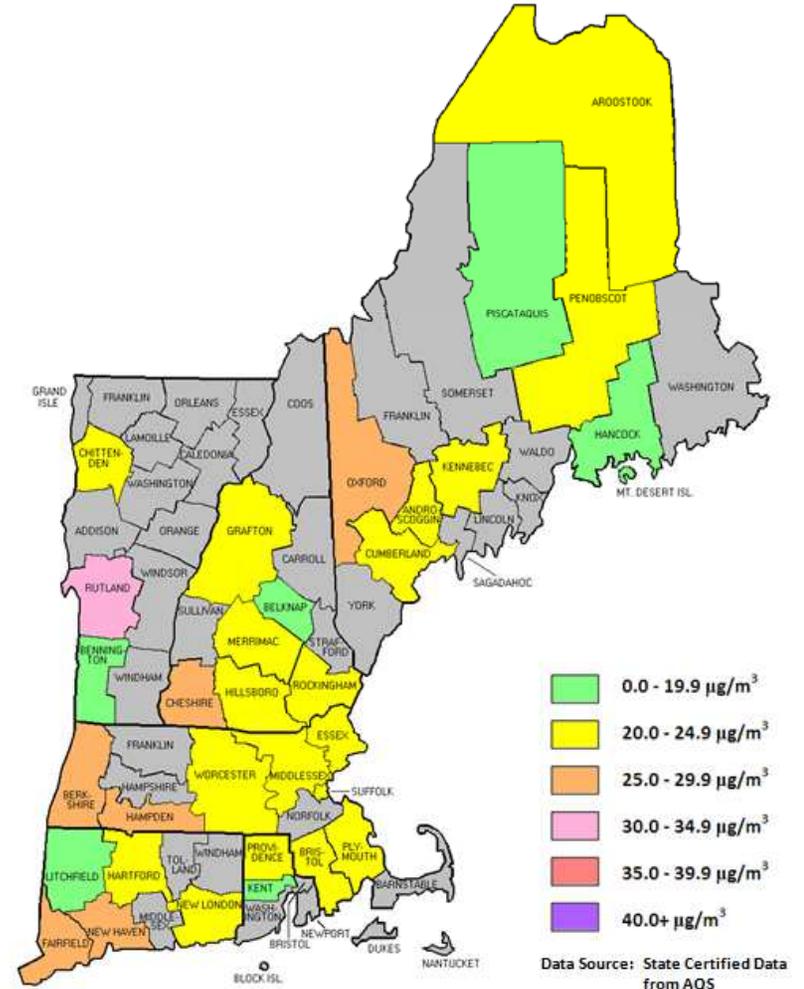
Note: EPA will not designate areas as nonattainment on these data, but likely on 2011-2013 data which are expected to show improved air quality



Annual $PM_{2.5}$ Design Values 2009 – 2011



24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ Design Values 2009 – 2011





Expected Timeline for the Revised PM_{2.5} NAAQS

Milestone	Date
Signature—Final Rule	December 14, 2012
State Designation Recommendations to EPA	December 2013 (based on 2010-2012 data)
Final Designations	December 2014 (based on 2011-2013 data)
SIPs Due	Early 2018
Attainment Date	2020 - 2025



PM Advance Program

- In January 2013, EPA plans to launch PM Advance Program.
- PM Advance will be aimed at helping PM attainment areas take proactive steps to stay in attainment.
- Similar to existing ozone advance program
www.epa.gov/ozoneadvance
- Webinar, November 29, from 2-3:30pm
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/302192401>