

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Draft Exceptional Events Demonstration Addressing the 2024 Annual Primary Fine Particles (PM_{2.5}) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for the Lake County, Indiana Area

Note: Legal notices for public comment are no longer published in newspapers, but can be found on the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's web site at:

[IDEM: Public Notices \(in.gov\)](#)

Notice is hereby given under 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 51.102 that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is accepting written comment regarding the *Draft Exceptional Events Demonstration Addressing the 2024 Annual Primary Fine Particles (PM_{2.5}) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for the Lake County, Indiana Area*.

The purpose of this submittal is to request exclusion of certain 2022 and 2023 PM_{2.5} monitoring data due to wildfire smoke and fireworks impacts measured at the East Chicago-Franklin School (180890006), Gary-Madison St (180890031), East Chicago-Marina (180890034) and Hammond-167th St (180890036) monitors. The elevated PM_{2.5} concentrations from these wildfire and fireworks events have contributed to exceedances of the 2024 annual primary PM_{2.5} standard in Lake County, IN, have regulatory significance, and should therefore be excluded from regulatory determinations. The above document is being drafted and submitted consistent with U.S. EPA guidance.

The draft document will be made available for review on or before June 27, 2025, on the following web page and at the following locations:

[IDEM: State Implementation Plans: Particulate Matter \(PM\) Air Quality Designations \(in.gov\)](#)

- Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Air Quality, Indiana Government Center North, 100 North Senate Avenue, Room N1003, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.
- IDEM Northwest Regional Office, 330 West U.S. Highway 30, Suite F, Valparaiso, Indiana
- Crown Point Community Library, 122 North Main Street, Crown Point, Indiana
- Gary Public Library, 220 West 5th Avenue, Gary, Indiana
- Hammond Public Library, 564 State Street, Hammond, Indiana
- Lake County Public Library-Highland Branch, 2841 Jewett Street, Highland, Indiana

- Lake Station-New Chicago Branch Public Library, 2007 Central Avenue, Lake Station, Indiana
- Valparaiso Public Library, 103 Jefferson Street, Valparaiso, Indiana
- Whiting Public Library, 1735 Oliver Street, Whiting, Indiana

Any person may submit written comments on the *Draft Exceptional Events Demonstration Addressing the 2024 Annual Primary Fine Particles (PM_{2.5}) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for the Lake County, Indiana Area*. Written comments should be directed to: Mr. Jeff Stoakes, Senior Environmental Manager, Technical Support and Modeling Section, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Air Quality, Room 1003, 100 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. Written comments can also be submitted via fax at (317) 233-0429 or e-mail at jstoakes@idem.in.gov. Comments must be submitted by July 29, 2025.

For additional information contact Mr. Jeff Stoakes, at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Air Quality, Room N1003, Indiana Government Center North, 100 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204, via e-mail at jstoakes@idem.in.gov, or via telephone at (317) 233-0429 (direct) or (800) 451-6027 (toll free in Indiana).

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Speech and hearing impaired callers may contact the agency via the Indiana Relay Service at 1-800-743-3333. The IDEM Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator may be contacted at: Attn: ADA Coordinator, Indiana Department of Environmental Management – Mail Code 50-10, 100 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251, or call (317) 233-1785 (voice) or (317) 233-6565 (TDD).