

## 2024 Annual Fine Particle (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) Standards

On February 7, 2024, after reviewing available health science, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) strengthened the annual primary standard to a level of 9.0 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) to provide the requisite level of public health protection. The final rule was published in the Federal Register on March 6, 2024 ([89 FR 16202](#)).

On December 27, 2024 ([89 FR 105692](#)), after reviewing available science, U.S. EPA concluded that the existing annual secondary standard of 15.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  provided the requisite level of public welfare protection, and, therefore retained the standard.

Attainment of the annual primary and secondary PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards is determined by evaluating the three-year average of the annual arithmetic mean PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration at each monitoring site in the area, also known as the design value, which must be less than or equal to 9.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for the primary standard and less than or equal to 15.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for the secondary standard.

- State designation recommendations for the 2024 annual primary standard are due to U.S. EPA by no later than February 7, 2025.
- U.S. EPA is required to notify states concerning any intended modifications to their recommendations by no later than October 9, 2025.
- U.S. EPA is required to promulgate final area designations by February 6, 2026.
- The earliest states would likely need to come into attainment is the year 2032 (i.e., areas designated moderate nonattainment).