

LEGAL NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Draft Exceptional Events Demonstration Addressing the 2015 8-Hour Ozone (O₃) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for Lake and Porter Counties, Indiana

Note: Legal notices for public hearings 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 2015 8-Hour Ozone (O₃) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for Lake and Porter Counties, Indiana*. All interested persons are invited and will be given reasonable opportunity to express their views concerning this submittal.

The purpose of this submittal is to request exclusion of certain 2023 and 2025 ozone monitoring data due to wildfire smoke impacts measured at the Gary-IITRI (180890022), Hammond-141st Street (180890036), Ogden Dunes (181270024), and Valparaiso (181270026) monitors. The elevated ozone concentrations from these wildfire events have contributed to exceedances of the 2015 8-hour ozone standard in Lake and Porter counties, Indiana, 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 available for review on or before April 17, 2026, on the following web page and at the following locations:

[IDEM: Ozone \(O₃\) Air Quality Designations](#)

- Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Air Quality, Indiana Government Center North, 100 North Senate Avenue, Room 13W, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Northwest Regional Office, 330 West U.S. Highway 30, Suite F, Valparaiso, Indiana 46385
- Crown Point Public Library, 122 North Main Street, Crown Point, Indiana 47025
- Gary Public Library, 220 West 5th Avenue, Gary, Indiana 46402
- Hammond Public Library, 564 State Street, Hammond, Indiana 46320

- Lake County Public Library-Highland Branch, 2841 Jewett Street, Highland, Indiana 46322
- Lake Station-New Chicago Branch Public Library, 2007 Central Avenue, Lake Station, Indiana 46405
- Valparaiso Public Library, 103 Jefferson Street, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383
- Whiting Public Library, 1735 Oliver Street, Whiting, Indiana 46394

Any person may submit written comments on the *Draft Exceptional Events Demonstration Addressing the 2015 8-Hour Ozone (O₃) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for Lake and Porter Counties, Indiana*. Written comments should be directed to: Mr. Jeff Stoakes, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Air Quality, Indiana Government Center North, 100 North Senate Avenue, Room 13W, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. Comments can also be submitted via fax (317) 233-5967 or email at jstoakes@idem.in.gov. Comments must be submitted by May 19, 2026.

For additional information contact Mr. Jeff Stoakes, via email at jstoakes@idem.in.gov, via telephone at (317) 233-0429 (direct) or (800) 451-6027 (toll free in Indiana), or via U.S. Mail at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Air Quality, Indiana Government Center North, 100 North Senate Avenue, Room 13W, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

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Speech and hearing impaired callers may contact the agency via the Indiana Relay Service at 1-800-743-3333.