



THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 19 2012

The Honorable Gregory Mendoza
Governor
Gila River Indian Community
525 West Gu U Ki
Sacaton, Arizona 85147

Dear Governor Mendoza:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today is completing the process to designate your tribal lands as unclassifiable/attainment for the 2006 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for fine-particle pollution measured over 24-hours. This action informs your community that your outdoor air is meeting the national standards for 24-hour fine-particle pollution.


As part of the designations process established under the Clean Air Act, the EPA worked closely with tribes and states to identify areas in the nation that meet the 24-hour fine-particle standards and those that need to take steps to reduce fine-particle pollution. I appreciate the information that your tribe shared with the EPA throughout this process to assess 24-hour fine-particle pollution levels on your lands. After reviewing the most recent certified air-quality data and evaluating factors to assess contribution to nearby levels of particle pollution, the EPA is designating areas of Indian Country of the Gila River Indian Community as unclassifiable/attainment separate from the surrounding state area.

History shows that cleaner air, better health and economic growth go hand-in-hand. For areas such as yours that are designated as unclassifiable/attainment the challenge is to maintain clean air. I recognize that the EPA shares the responsibility with the tribes and states for managing fine-particle pollution. I also recognize that air pollution can cross tribal and state boundaries contributing to downwind violations of the standards. Current and upcoming federal standards and safeguards, including air-pollution-reduction rules for power plants, industrial facilities, vehicles and fuels, will ensure steady progress toward reducing particle-forming pollution and will protect public health in communities across America.

On October 17, 2006, the EPA strengthened the 24-hour fine-particle standards to provide increased protection of public health and the environment. Numerous scientific studies have linked exposure to these tiny particles, which are approximately 1/30th the size of a human hair, with serious human-health problems, including premature death in people with heart and lung disease, nonfatal heart attacks and increased hospital admissions and doctor and emergency-room visits for respiratory and cardiovascular disease. Attaining and maintaining these standards will provide important public and environmental health benefits and is an important part of the EPA's commitment to a clean, healthy environment.

For additional technical information about the designations for fine particles, please visit www.epa.gov/pmdesignations. Should you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may call Laura McKelvey at (919) 541-5497 or mckelvey.laura@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Lisa P. Jackson