EPA'S PROPOSED $PM_{2.5}$ RULES COULD BE COSTLY FOR THE NATION

Fine particles in the air ($PM_{2.5}$) are produced by natural and man-made sources. EPA is proposing to tighten the $PM_{2.5}$ standards, which could have significant impacts.

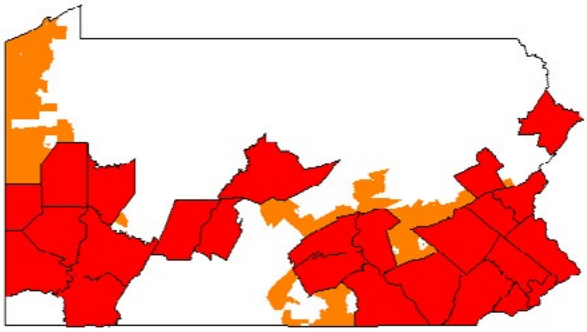
WHAT COULD NEW $PM_{2.5}$ REGULATIONS MEAN FOR PENNSYLVANIA?

ALMOST HALF OF PENNSYLVANIA COULD BE OUT OF ATTAINMENT*

What could happen if lower standards are implemented?

1. Communities will be prevented from improving aging infrastructure, like highways and wastewater treatment facilities.
2. Daily and recreational activities that produce emissions will be restricted.
3. Programs to meet lower PM standards will be challenging for state and local governments and will impose costs on businesses and consumers.

***It gets worse for counties in red and orange**
(see image left)

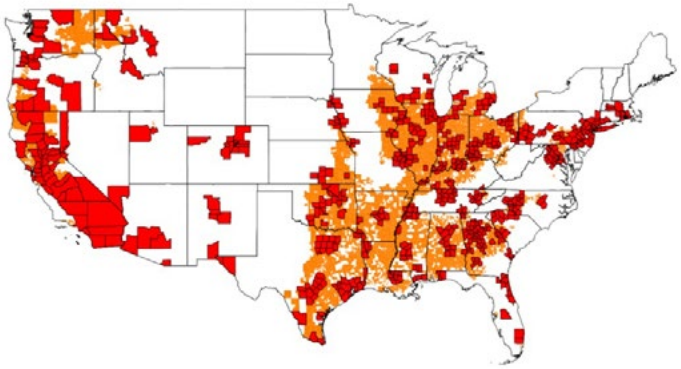


$PM_{2.5}$ Map Series – 8 µg/m³ Standard

RED - monitored (2021) county/CBSA design values that currently exceed 8 µg/m³ threshold

ORANGE - modeled (2018) census tract concentrations that are projected to exceed 8 µg/m³ threshold

NATIONAL PROJECTED $PM_{2.5}$ NONATTAINMENT AREAS



A recent study by Oxford Economics[1] estimates that lowering the $PM_{2.5}$ standards to 8 µg/m³ could cost the U.S.:

- **$162.4 to $197.4 billion** in economic activity
- place **852,100 to 973,900 jobs** at risk both directly from manufacturing and indirectly from supply chain spending
- an additional **$138.4 billion and 501,000 jobs** in lost output

[1]https://www.nam.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Oxford-Study-One-Pager-21.pdf

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American Petroleum Institute

EPA SHOULD NOT CHANGE THE CURRENT $PM_{2.5}$ STANDARDS

DON'T IMPOSE UNNECESSARY REGULATIONS

EPA'S reconsideration of the PM standards is discretionary and not required by the Clean Air Act.

CHALLENGING TO REACH FULL ATTAINMENT OF LOWER STANDARDS

Despite having spent billions of dollars on reducing air pollution, several metropolitan areas are still struggling to meet the current standards.

According to a study done by NERA Economic Consulting, emissions reduction to reach full attainment of the proposed $PM_{2.5}$ standards may cost between $7 and $24 billion. The EPA should focus on helping these communities meet the current standards before implementing new standards.[2]

MAJORITY OF PM CONTRIBUTIONS ARE FROM NONINDUSTRIAL SOURCES

In most regions, even without industry, electricity generating units, and mobile source contributions, other sources, including agriculture, account for the majority of PM emissions. Attaining lower PM standards across the nation will not be feasible due to natural and local sources.

DON'T SET STANDARDS THAT THREATEN AMERICA'S COMPETITIVENESS AND AMERICAN JOBS

Tightening the annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard to 8 $\mu g/m^3$ could increase costs to the American public, reduce America's ability to compete internationally, and threaten American jobs.

According to a study by Oxford Economics, these standards could significantly impact the economies of areas unable to meet the standard; it could cost: $162.4 to $197.4 billion in economic activity, place 852,100 to 973,900 jobs at risk both directly from manufacturing and indirectly from supply chain spending. These areas could lose out on an additional $138.4 billion in output and 501,000 jobs through 2027.

AIR QUALITY PROGRESS WILL CONTINUE

The nation's air quality has improved over the past several years and $PM_{2.5}$ emissions will continue to decline without new regulations. Since 2000, average atmospheric $PM_{2.5}$ concentration has decreased by 42%, according to the EPA.[3]

HEALTH DATA SHOW THE CURRENT STANDARDS ARE PROTECTIVE

These new standards are not justified from a health perspective because current scientific research does not show a need to reduce PM standards.

SUMMARY

These new standards would force businesses of all sizes to navigate additional layers of bureaucracy, prevent communities from improving aging infrastructure, hurt jobs and the economy, including some agricultural activities.

[2] https://www.regulations.gov/comment/EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0587-0009

[3] https://www.epa.gov/air-trends/particulate-matter-pm25-trends

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