

PM2.5 AQI revisions -- From the April 9 AIRNow steering comm. call:

Susan Stone [OAQPS]: AQI NPRM won't be out until September at the earliest because of the work the same group is doing on the ozone NAAQS NPRM, which of course has a legal timeline. Also: they're considering bringing down the yellow to orange level to $35.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at the time they issue the AQI NPRM, but aren't willing to do anything before then. This change would be temporary, and could change again depending on the final AQI regs. But since those regs won't be out in the FR until February at the very earliest -- and may a year from now -- it at least is a step in the right direction.

Draft Disclaimer Text:

Note: The PM2.5 AQI reported here may underestimate the health risk associated with elevated levels of particle pollution, since the current PM AQI does not reflect the fall 2006 tightening of the daily PM2.5 national air quality standard to $35 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. This change in the standard reflects recent scientific evidence on the health effects from particle pollution.

This fall, EPA plans to propose revisions to the PM2.5 AQI to reflect the changes to the daily standard. These revisions will be proposed through a formal EPA rulemaking process, which will include a public comment period. Check this site for information regarding the proposed revisions and information on submitting comments.

For information on the 2006 changes to the daily PM2.5 standard:

http://www.epa.gov/oar/particlepollution/pdfs/20060921_factsheet.pdf