



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

July 16, 2020

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

Mr. Wilfred J. Nabahe
Chairman
National Tribal Air Association
P.O. Box 15004
Flagstaff, Arizona 86011

Dear Mr. Nabahe:

Thank you for your June 29, 2020, letter to Administrator Wheeler on behalf of the National Tribal Air Association in which you express your concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to retain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM).

As you know, EPA has proposed to retain the current primary (health-based) fine particle, or PM_{2.5}, standards, measured annually and daily. For larger particles, EPA is proposing to retain the coarse, or PM₁₀, standards. Finally, EPA is proposing to retain the current secondary (welfare-based) standards for both PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ standards (set equal to the primary standards, except the level of the secondary annual PM_{2.5} standard is 15.0 micrograms per cubic meter).

In your letter, you express concern over the impact of particles on public health, particularly on those populations that may be disproportionately affected by PM air pollution. You request that EPA reconsider its proposal to retain the current primary and secondary PM standards and to strengthen the PM NAAQS.

I appreciate your concerns and can assure you that your views and comments will be taken into consideration as we develop a final rule. Your comments and recommendations have been forwarded to the docket for this rulemaking (Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0072) and will be considered as EPA moves forward in its decision-making process. EPA intends to issue a final rule on the PM NAAQS in December 2020.

Again, thank you for your letter and for your engagement in this review. I appreciate the opportunity to be of service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne L. Austin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anne" being the most prominent.

Anne L. Austin
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator