

## **LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **Draft Exceptional Events Demonstration Addressing the 2024 Annual Primary Fine Particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for the South Bend, Indiana Area**

**Note: Legal notices for public comment 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 2024 Annual Primary Fine Particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for the South Bend, Indiana Area*.

The purpose of this submittal is to request exclusion of certain 2023 PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitoring data due to wildfire smoke impacts measured at the South Bend–Shields Avenue ambient air quality monitor (ID #18-141-0015). Excluding the data from these exceptional events has regulatory significance because removal of the data results in a 2021–2023 three-year annual mean design value below the 2024 annual primary PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard and would preclude the South Bend, IN area from being designated as “nonattainment” under United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (U.S. EPA’s) air quality designations process. The above document is being drafted and submitted consistent with U.S. EPA guidance.

The draft document will be made available for review on or before November 18, 2024, on the following web page and at the following locations:

[IDEM: State Implementation Plans: Particulate Matter \(PM\) Air Quality Designations \(in.gov\)](#)

- Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Air Quality, Indiana Government Center North, 100 North Senate Avenue, Room N1003, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.
- St. Joseph County Public Library, 304 South Main Street, South Bend, Indiana, 46601.

Any person may submit written comments on the *Draft Exceptional Events Demonstration Addressing the 2024 Annual Primary Fine Particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for the South Bend, Indiana Area*. Written comments should be directed to: Mr. Jeff Stoakes, Senior Environmental Manager, Technical Support and Modeling Section, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Air Quality, Room 1003, 100 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. Written comments can also be submitted via fax at (317) 233-0429 or e-mail at [jstoakes@idem.in.gov](mailto:jstoakes@idem.in.gov). Comments must be submitted by December 18, 2024.

For additional information contact Mr. Jeff Stoakes, at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Air Quality, Room N1003, Indiana Government Center North, 100 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204, via e-mail at [jstoakes@idem.in.gov](mailto:jstoakes@idem.in.gov), or via telephone at (317) 233-0429 (direct) or (800) 451-6027 (toll free in Indiana).

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*Speech and hearing impaired callers may contact the agency via the Indiana Relay Service at 1-800-743-3333. The IDEM Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator may be contacted at: Attn: ADA Coordinator, Indiana Department of Environmental Management – Mail Code 50-10, 100 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251, or call (317) 233-1785 (voice) or (317) 233-6565 (TDD).*