

## FACT SHEET

### Technical Correction to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter

#### ACTION

- On January 9, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) made a technical correction to an equation used in the calculation of the annual fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) design values. Design values are compared to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to determine compliance with the NAAQS.
- Specifically, this equation, Equation 2, is used to properly account for cases where a site does not have four complete quarters of data and passes one of two substitution tests.
- This correction does not change the EPA's current calculation of the annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> design values, but prevents an erroneous calculation when quarters have missing data and a substitution test is performed.

#### BACKGROUND

- Although Equation 2 has remained unchanged since the 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS were established, in a few situations a literal interpretation of the equation as written could result in erroneous design values when sites are missing quarters of data.
- This change accurately reflects the intended and the EPA's existing calculation of the annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> design values and is consistent with the remainder of the text in Appendix N.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the rule from EPA's web site on the Internet under Recent Actions at the following address: <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/technical-correction-equation-2-appendix-n>.
- Other places to read the final rule and background information (use Docket ID No. EPA-EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0408).
- For further information about the rulemaking, contact Brett Gantt at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5274 or [gantt.brett@epa.gov](mailto:gantt.brett@epa.gov).