

Final Rule for PM_{2.5} under Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD)

On October 20, 2010, the EPA published its final rule amending the requirements for particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers (PM_{2.5}) under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program by adding maximum allowable increases in ambient pollutant concentrations (“increments”) and two screening tools, known as the Significant Impact Levels (SILs) and a Significant Monitoring Concentration (SMC) for PM_{2.5}. The SILs for PM_{2.5} are also being added to two other New Source Review (NSR) rules that regulate the construction and modification of any major stationary source locating in an attainment or unclassifiable area, where the source's emissions may cause or contribute to a violation of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS).

NAAQS Averaging period	(µg/m ³)	Increments (µg/m ³)		
		Class I	Class II	Class III
Annual	15	1	4	8
24-hour	35	2	9	18

The increments for PM_{2.5} will become applicable on October 20, 2011. This final rule does not revoke the annual increments for particulate matter less than 10 micrometers (PM₁₀) as proposed under Option 1 in the 2007 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

Averaging period	SILs (µg/m ³)		
	Class I	Class II	Class III
Annual	0.06	0.3	0.3
24-hour	0.07	1.2	1.2

The final rule establishes SMC for PM_{2.5} as 4 µg/m³ PM_{2.5} (24-hour average). The increments, SILs, and SMC are effective December 20, 2010.