



Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CABINET
DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

300 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, Kentucky 406 01
Phone: (502) 564 -2150
Fax: 502-564 -4245

Rebecca Goodman
SECRETARY

Anthony R. Hatton
COMMISSIONER

February 7, 2025

Ms. Jeaneanne Gettle
Acting Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RE: Submission of initial area designation recommendations for the revised PM_{2.5} primary annual standard

Dear Ms. Gettle:

On February 7, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated a revised National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for the primary annual particulate matter standard for fine particles (PM_{2.5}) by lowering the level from 12.0 µg/m³ to 9.0 µg/m³. This action was officially published in the Federal Register on March 6, 2024.¹ Pursuant to Section 107(d)(1)(A) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), states are required to submit initial area designation recommendations to the EPA no later than one year after promulgation of the new or revised NAAQS. Thus, states must submit initial area designation recommendations for the revised primary annual PM_{2.5} standard by February 7, 2025.

Using certified air quality data that meets the applicable regulatory requirements, the 2021-2023 design values of all PM_{2.5} monitors in Kentucky are provided in Attachment 1. The use of this data corresponds to the PM_{2.5} initial area designation memorandum issued by EPA that encouraged states to submit recommendations based on 2021-2023 monitoring data.² However, Kentucky relies on 2024 monitoring data³ and 2022-2024 design values for Bell and Jefferson Counties in Kentucky for its initial area designation recommendations. This is appropriate because EPA's final area designations are to be based on 2022-2024 monitoring data. As demonstrated in Attachment 1, the most current design values at all monitors are below the standard of 9.0 µg/m³. Therefore, the Energy and Environment Cabinet (Cabinet) recommends Bell and Jefferson Counties be designated as attainment for the revised PM_{2.5} standard. The Cabinet also recommends the remainder of the state be designated as attainment/unclassifiable. The complete list of all

¹ 89 Fed. Reg. 16,202

² U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. *Initial Area Designations for the 2024 Revised Primary Annual Fine Particle National Ambient Air Quality Standard*, February 7, 2024.

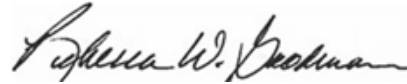
https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-02/pm-naaqs-designations-memo_2.7.2024--jg-signed.pdf

³ Due to issues with Air Quality System (AQS), early certification for Jefferson and Bell Counties has not yet been completed, however, the recommendation for designation is still based on the 2024 values for these counties.

counties in the Commonwealth and their respective designation recommendations are submitted and specified in the table included as Attachment 2.

Your prompt attention to this letter is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please contact Michael Kennedy, Division for Air Quality Director, at (502) 782-6997 or michael.kennedy@ky.gov.

Sincerely,



Rebecca W. Goodman, Secretary
Energy and Environment Cabinet

cc:

Denisse Diaz
Lynorae Benjamin

Attachment 1
Attachment 2

Attachment 1: Kentucky Design Values

County	Monitor I.D.	2021-2023 Design Value	2022-2024 Design Value*
Bell	21-13-0002	9.1	8.6
Boyd	21-19-0017	7.5	7.1
Campbell	21-37-3002	7.6	7.3
Carter	21-43-0500	6.3	6.0
Christian	21-47-0006	8.6	7.9
Daviess**	21-59-0005	8.8	Invalid
Fayette	21-67-0012	7.8	7.1
Hardin	21-93-0006	7.8	7.2
Jefferson	21-111-0051	9.3	8.8
	21-111-0067	8.4	7.8
	21-111-0075	9.5	8.8
	21-111-0080	8.8	8.2
	21-111-1041	8.8	8.4
McCracken	21-145-1024	8.8	8.6
	21-145-1027	8.5	7.7
Perry	21-193-0003	8.0	7.8
Pike	21-195-0002	6.8	6.4
Pulaski	21-199-0003	7.5	7.1
Warren	21-227-0009	7.4	6.9

*2022-2024 design values are based upon preliminary monitoring data that has not been certified; 2022-2024 design values will be certified for Bell and Jefferson Counties once the Air Quality System (AQS) issues are rectified.

**The Daviess County monitor was offline for a portion of 2024, making its 2022-2024 design value invalid.

Attachment 2: PM_{2.5} Initial Area Designation Recommendations

County	Recommended Designation	County	Recommended Designation
Adair	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Elliot	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Allen	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Estill	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Anderson	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Fayette	Attainment
Ballard	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Fleming	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Barren	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Floyd	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Bath	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Franklin	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Bell	Attainment	Fulton	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Boone	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Gallatin	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Bourbon	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Garrard	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Boyd	Attainment	Grant	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Boyle	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Graves	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Bracken	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Grayson	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Breathitt	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Green	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Breckinridge	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Greenup	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Bullitt	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Hancock	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Butler	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Hardin	Attainment
Caldwell	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Harlan	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Calloway	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Harrison	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Campbell	Attainment	Hart	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Carlisle	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Henderson	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Carroll	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Henry	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Carter	Attainment	Hickman	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Casey	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Hopkins	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Christian	Attainment	Jackson	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Clark	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Jefferson	Attainment
Clay	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Jessamine	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Clinton	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Johnson	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Crittenden	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Kenton	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Cumberland	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Knott	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Daviess	Attainment	Knox	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Edmonson	Attainment/Unclassifiable	LaRue	Attainment/Unclassifiable

County	Recommended Designation	County	Recommended Designation
Laurel	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Ohio	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Lawrence	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Oldham	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Lee	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Owen	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Leslie	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Owsley	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Letcher	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Pendleton	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Lewis	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Perry	Attainment
Lincoln	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Pike	Attainment
Livingston	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Powell	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Logan	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Pulaski	Attainment
Lyon	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Robertson	Attainment/Unclassifiable
McCracken	Attainment	Rockcastle	Attainment/Unclassifiable
McCreary	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Rowan	Attainment/Unclassifiable
McLean	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Russell	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Madison	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Scott	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Magoffin	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Shelby	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Marion	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Simpson	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Marshall	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Spencer	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Martin	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Taylor	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Mason	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Todd	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Meade	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Trigg	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Menifee	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Trimble	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Mercer	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Union	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Metcalfe	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Warren	Attainment
Monroe	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Washington	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Montgomery	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Wayne	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Morgan	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Webster	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Muhlenberg	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Whitley	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Nelson	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Wolfe	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Nicholas	Attainment/Unclassifiable	Woodford	Attainment/Unclassifiable