

Date: September 29, 2009
To: Environmental Quality Commission
From: Dick Pedersen, Director



Subject: Agenda Item G, Informational Item: Klamath Falls Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) Attainment Plan
October 22-23, 2009 EQC Meeting

Purpose of Item This item informs the Environmental Quality Commission about the development of a PM_{2.5} attainment plan for Klamath Falls. Klamath Falls currently violates the daily PM_{2.5} standard and DEQ must develop a PM_{2.5} attainment plan to bring the area back into compliance.

Background

What are the federal standards for PM_{2.5}?

In September 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency strengthened the PM_{2.5}, or fine particulate, standard by lowering the daily level from 65 µg/m³ to 35 µg/m³ and EPA retained the annual PM_{2.5} standard of 15 µg/m³. Fine particulate matter is a mixture of extremely small particles and droplets in the air and is known to cause or contribute to respiratory disease, asthma attacks, heart problems, and premature death. The EPA designates areas in violation of the PM_{2.5} standard, based on the most recent three years of federal reference monitoring data, as “nonattainment areas.” Two communities in Oregon, Klamath Falls and Oakridge, violate the daily PM_{2.5} standard. At least three additional communities in Oregon have elevated levels of fine particulate but do not currently violate the federal standard.

How does this affect Klamath Falls?

This is not the first time Klamath Falls has had to implement measures to meet air quality standards. In 1991, Klamath Falls violated the federal carbon monoxide standard and the federal particulate matter, PM₁₀, standard. DEQ developed separate carbon monoxide and PM₁₀ plans with specific strategies to reduce pollution. As a result of the plans, the area was able to meet and continue to meet the standards. In fact, the PM₁₀ strategies were so successful in maintaining clean air that Klamath Falls met the EPA’s initial PM_{2.5} standard in 1997.

Currently, Klamath Falls violates the 2006 daily PM_{2.5} health standard and EPA will classify it a PM_{2.5} nonattainment area in 2009 or 2010. As with the earlier PM₁₀ standard, violations of the PM_{2.5} standard tend to occur during the winter

months and are thought to be largely caused by home wood heating smoke, but are also affected by industrial emissions, transportation and other sources. DEQ will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of all PM_{2.5} emission sources in the community to identify appropriate strategies to restore and maintain healthy air quality. DEQ and Klamath Falls must develop a plan that will bring air quality into compliance with the standard as soon as possible, and submit the plan to EPA by 2012-2013, within three years of EPA officially designating Klamath Falls as a nonattainment area.

Key Issues **Process for the developing the Klamath Falls PM_{2.5} attainment plan**
DEQ will develop an attainment plan to improve air quality. DEQ will work in coordination with Klamath County to:

- 1) Develop a scientific foundation for the plan, including an analysis of air monitoring and other data to develop an emission inventory, source characterization, and an attainment demonstration showing how the area will meet the standard based on permanent and enforceable emission reduction measures.
- 2) Form an advisory committee to select emission reduction strategies to reduce PM_{2.5} emissions. These emission reduction strategies will ensure the community is able to attain the standards. The standards may affect the public and business sources by focusing on efforts to reduce wood smoke pollution, open burning emissions, controls on agricultural and forestry burning, industrial controls, and motor vehicle emission reduction programs.

Next Steps DEQ plans to proceed with developing an attainment plan and associated rules over the next three years.

EQC Involvement The Klamath Falls attainment plan will be presented as part of Oregon's Clean Air Act state implementation plan and will require EQC action.

Attachments None

Available Upon Request 1. DEQ's comments to EPA on the proposed PM_{2.5} nonattainment boundary for Klamath Falls

Approved:

Section: _____

Division: _____

Report prepared by: Rachel Sakata and Larry Calkins
DEQ Air Quality – Planning and Eastern Region
Phone: (503) 229-5659 and (541) 567-8297, Ext 225