

**Request for Public Comments on Exceptional Events in the Maricopa County (Greater Phoenix) O3 Nonattainment Area**

In 2005, Congress identified a need to account for events that result in exceedances of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) that are exceptional in nature (e.g., not expected to reoccur or caused by acts of nature beyond man-made controls.) In response, EPA promulgated the Exceptional Events Rule (EER) to address exceptional events in 40 CFR Parts 50 and 51 on March 22, 2007 (72 FR 13560). On November 20, 2015, EPA released guidance on the preparation of exceptional events demonstrations for wildfire events that may influence ozone concentrations to State, tribal and local air agencies for review. The EER allows for states and tribes to “flag” air quality monitoring data as an exceptional event. If flagged, these data can be excluded from consideration in air quality planning if EPA concurs with the demonstration submitted by the flagging agency documenting that all procedural and technical requirements have been met.

Pursuant to 40 CFR 50.14(c)(3)(i), the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is soliciting comments on its final demonstration of an event that has caused elevated concentrations of Ozone (O3) in the Maricopa County (Greater Phoenix) O3 Nonattainment area on July 7, 2017. Additionally, ADEQ is soliciting comments on its final addendum to the previously submitted demonstration for the event on June 20, 2015. ADEQ has decided to flag exceedance concentrations based on these analyses. A copy of these demonstrations and addendum are available for review beginning Thursday, May 17, 2018, on the ADEQ website at [http://azdeq.gov/PN/o3\\_NAA](http://azdeq.gov/PN/o3_NAA). Interested parties can submit written comments throughout the comment period which will end at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 16, 2016. Any comments received will be responded to and forwarded to EPA with the final demonstration.

Written comments should be addressed or E-mailed to:

Air Assessment Section, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, 1110 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007, E-mail: [exceptionalevents@azdeq.gov](mailto:exceptionalevents@azdeq.gov).

In addition to being available on-line, a copy of the analysis is available for review, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the [ADEQ Records Management Center](#) 1110 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ, 85007, Attn: Records Center, (602) 771-4380, E-mail: [recordscenter@azdeq.gov](mailto:recordscenter@azdeq.gov).

To request an auxiliary aid or service for accessible communication, please contact (602) 771-2215 or at [ej2@azdeq.gov](mailto:ej2@azdeq.gov) or dial 7-1-1 for TTY/TTD Services.