

**Request for Public Comments on Exceptional Events in the Maricopa County
(Greater Phoenix) PM₁₀ 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 October 3, 2016, EPA released final revisions to the exceptional events rule. 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 PM₁₀ in the Maricopa County (Greater Phoenix) PM₁₀ Nonattainment area on 4/25/16, 5/27/16, 7/29/16, 9/27/16, 9/28/16. ADEQ has decided to flag these episodes based on this analysis. A copy of the demonstration is available for review beginning Monday, 7/31/17, on the ADEQ website at <http://www.azdeq.gov/programs/air-quality-programs/natural-exceptional-events-demonstration>. Interested parties can submit written comments throughout the comment period which will end at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 8/31/17. Any comments received will be responded to and forwarded to EPA with the final demonstration.

Written comments should be addressed, faxed, or e-mailed to:

Air Assessment Section, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, 1110 W. Washington Street, 3415-A, Phoenix, AZ 85007, E-mail: 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.

To request an auxiliary aid or service for accessible communication, please contact (602) 771-2215 or at co2@azdeq.gov or dial 7-1-1 for TTY/TTD Services.