

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Air Quality

The proposed regulations contain contingency measures. Section 172(c)(9) of the Clean Air Act requires nonattainment plans to “provide for the implementation of specific measures to be undertaken if the area fails to make reasonable further progress, or to attain the national primary ambient air quality standard the (applicable) attainment date....” It further states that contingency measures shall be structured to take effect, if triggered, without any further action by the State or EPA.

There are two contingency measures proposed. Both measures would only be required should the area fail to meet attainment by December 31, 2015. Attainment is defined by using a three-year rolling average of the design value (DV) determined from the actual monitoring data.

Currently the Fairbanks North Star Borough is a “Moderate” nonattainment area. Should the area fail to meet the December 31, 2015 attainment deadline, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will reclassify the area as a “Serious” nonattainment area. A “Serious” designation does not mean the area’s air quality is worse, it means the area needs more time to come into compliance with the air quality health standard. The most likely timing of being declared a “Serious” nonattainment area is around June 2016.

Contingency Measure 1

Limit on grandfathering exemption for existing wood-fired heating devices

- When triggered, this contingency measure would require removal or upgrade of a wood-fired heating device upon sale of home if the device does not meet DEC and EPA requirements or a waiver is not granted.
- No requirement to upgrade device if not selling residence.

Contingency Measure 2

Required participation in Commercial Wood Seller Registration Program

- Only those defined as a commercial wood seller
- Program would start after a 60-day advance notice published by the department after EPA finds the area failed to attain and reclassifies the area to ‘Serious’ nonattainment.
- Wood sellers may continue to sell wet wood, there is no requirement to sell dry wood
- Wood sellers must measure wood moisture, document the measurement, and give a completed form to wood buyers. DEC will provide wood sellers with the forms for this program.



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