

Proposed Thurston County State Implementation Plan (SIP) Update

In June 2013, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) will submit proposed SIP revisions to EPA for the Thurston County Maintenance Area (TCMA). This area includes Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater and the unincorporated areas lying within or between the cities' boundaries. No new rules or requirements are being proposed.

If Ecology receives a request for a public hearing by May 22, 2013, Ecology will hold a hearing to receive public comments on the SIP revision. If no one requests a hearing, Ecology will not hold one.

What is a SIP, and why does Thurston County have one?

A SIP is a plan to help an area meet air quality standards. In the 1980s, the TCMA violated the federal 24-hour standard for particulate matter ten microns or less (PM₁₀), and EPA classified it as a "nonattainment area." A nonattainment area is one that does not meet at least one air quality standard. States must prepare SIPs for these areas.

The TCMA met the PM₁₀ standard by 1991, so EPA reclassified it to a "maintenance area" by 2000. The Clean Air Act requires maintenance areas to have plans ensuring they will continue to meet the standard. This plan will ensure compliance through 2020.

Why are we revising the SIP?

EPA approved Thurston County's first maintenance plan in 2000. Ecology has now prepared a final maintenance plan that will be in effect through 2020. The Clean Air Act requires Ecology to revise Washington's SIP to include this final maintenance plan.

What will the SIP revision do?

Since the TCMA shows little risk of re-violating air quality standards, it qualifies for a streamlined plan called a Limited Maintenance Plan. Ecology's proposed SIP revision to include this Limited Maintenance Plan will:

- Meet the federal requirement for a second 10-year maintenance plan
- Maintain the control strategies that help the area continue to meet the standard

More Information

Formal Comment Period:
April 22, 2013 through May 31, 2013

Deadline to request a public hearing:
May 22, 2013

Public hearing date, if held:

May 29, 2013, 6:00 pm,
Ecology Headquarters
Bldg. Room R0A-36
Lacey, WA

If a hearing is not requested, no hearing will be held as allowed by federal law. The decision will be posted on Ecology's Public Involvement Calendar on May 23, 2013. Or, contact Ecology to find out if the hearing has been cancelled.

Contact:

Laurie Hulse-Moyer
Air Quality Program
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
360-407-6783
Laurie.hulsemoyer@ecy.wa.gov

Special accommodations:

If you require special accommodations or need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call the Air Quality Program at 360-407-6800 by May 22, 2013. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-8336-6341.

- Strengthen the SIP by including existing Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA) and Washington State rules for wood burning and outdoor burning
- Fulfill the Clean Air Act's final maintenance plan requirements for the Thurston County area

Where can I get more information?

The proposed SIP revision and related documents are available for review on Ecology's website at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/sips/plans/maintenancesip.htm> . You can also view the documents at:

Timberland Regional Library (Olympia)
313 8th Avenue SE
Olympia, WA 98501-1307
360-352-0595

How can I request a hearing?

You can request a hearing by contacting Laurie Hulse-Moyer at 360-407-6783 by May 22, 2013. If no one requests a hearing by that date, the hearing will not be held. To find out if the hearing will be held or cancelled, check Ecology's Public Involvement Calendar or call Laurie Hulse-Moyer.

What comments is Ecology seeking?

Ecology welcomes all comments on the proposed SIP Revision. However, we are particularly interested in comments on the following:

- Ecology's decision to submit the required SIP Revision for the Thurston County Second 10-year Limited Maintenance Plan for PM₁₀ to EPA for incorporation into the SIP
- Ecology's decision to include parts of existing ORCAA and Washington State wood heating and outdoor burning regulations to support the plan and strengthen the SIP

How can I submit comments?

- Testify or submit written comments at the public hearing on May 29, 2013, if one is held
- Email your comments by May 31, 2013 to AQComments@ecy.wa.gov
- Mail comments by May 31, 2013 to:
Department of Ecology
ATTN: Laurie Hulse-Moyer
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

How will Ecology respond to comments?

All of the comments we receive will become part of the official record. Ecology will compile a summary of oral and written comments received during the comment period and Ecology's response to those comments.