



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27711

MAY 7 2009

OFFICE OF  
AIR QUALITY PLANNING  
AND STANDARDS

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Update on Application of the Exceptional Events Rule to the PM<sub>10</sub> Limited Maintenance Plan Option

**FROM:** William T. Harnett, Director *William Harnett*  
Air Quality Policy Division

**TO:** Air Division Directors, Regions I - X

The purpose of this memorandum is to update the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) memorandum "Limited Maintenance Plan Option for Moderate PM<sub>10</sub> Nonattainment Areas" (August 9, 2001), to reflect the issuance of the Exceptional Events Rule in May 2007. The Limited Maintenance Plan memo may be accessed at [http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t1/memoranda/lmp\\_final.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t1/memoranda/lmp_final.pdf), and the Exceptional Events Rule (72 FR 13560) may be accessed at [http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t1/fr\\_notices/exeventfr.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t1/fr_notices/exeventfr.pdf).

The Limited Maintenance Plan memo is updated as follows:

- 1) References in the memo to the Natural Events Policy and the Exceptional Events Guidance have been superseded, and the applicable document is now the Exceptional Events Rule.
- 2) In determining eligibility for the limited maintenance plan option EPA will treat 24-hour average air quality data between 98  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and 155  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in a manner analogous to the treatment of exceedance data under the Exceptional Events Rule, provided the impacted data meet the general definition and criteria for exceptional events (natural event, or exceptional event that is not reasonably controllable or expected to recur.)

For further information concerning the limited maintenance plan option for moderate PM<sub>10</sub> nonattainment areas please contact Larry Wallace of OAQPS at (919) 541-0906. For information concerning the Exceptional Events Rule, please contact Tom Link of OAQPS at (919) 541-5456.

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