

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 1, 2021

Dear _____:

In September 2021, County Council passed, and the County Executive signed, an important addition to the Allegheny County Health Department Rules and Regulations, Article XXI, Air Pollution Control. The new sections of the regulation, named the Mon Valley Air Pollution Episode Rule, were added to respond to weather-related inversions that occur in the Mon Valley that result in high levels of small particulate matter pollution (PM_{2.5} pollution - particles measuring 2.5 micro-meters or less).

This correspondence is to inform you that your organization/firm is subject to the following new and updated sections to Allegheny County Health Department Rules and Regulations Article XXI, Air Pollution Control:

*§2106.06, Mon Valley Air Pollution Episode (new)

*§2105.50, Open Burning (updated)

The new section to Article XXI, Air Pollution Control was added to minimize the impact of PM_{2.5} pollution on the people living in the Mon Valley during weather-related inversions. High levels of PM_{2.5} pollution in the air are associated with an increased risk for emergency room visits and hospitalizations for people with heart and lung diseases, children, the elderly, and other sensitive residents. The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for PM_{2.5} is 35 micrograms/meter³ or less. Monitors in the Mon Valley recorded two exceedances of this NAAQS in 2018 and nine exceedances in 2019. Below are explanations of the new and updated regulation sections and a link to the full rule.

Your facility/organization is located in an area listed in the new regulation. To comply with the Mon Valley Air Pollution Episode Regulation, you must submit ***an air pollution mitigation plan***. This plan must explain how your facility will reduce its PM_{2.5} pollution when an episode occurs in the Mon Valley.



DEBRA L. BOGEN, MD, DIRECTOR
ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
542 FOURTH AVENUE • PITTSBURGH, PA 15219
PHONE (412) 687.2243 • FAX (412) 578-8325 • WWW.ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US

Because the new rule went into effect on September 26, 2021 and requires that your firm submit your mitigation plans to the Air Quality Program within 90 days, your plan is due no later than December 27, 2021 and will be reviewed within thirty (30) days. Your plan is effective once the Department receives it. The attached Guidance Document lays out how to develop and submit mitigation plan consisting of two sections, the first addressing a Watch and the second addressing a Warning.

A Watch occurs when the Air Quality Program predicts that PM_{2.5} pollution levels will be exceeded in at least one of the municipalities listed in the rule in the upcoming 24-hours. A Warning occurs if an official monitoring station in the Mon Valley reads PM_{2.5} pollution levels that are higher than national standards allow and the weather conditions influencing the condition are unlikely to change soon.

Your mitigation plan will be reviewed based on a comparison with the permit(s) as well as an evaluation of the proposed methods of reduction, including the total proposed decreases, their feasibility and the justification for rejected options.

The information that must be in your air pollution mitigation plan is detailed in the regulation. The regulation is available in the link below:

<https://www.allegenycounty.us/Health-Department/Programs/Air-Quality/Regulations-and-SIPs.aspx>

The attached guidance document explains the background of the regulation changes, provides guidance on preparing your mitigation plan, and outlines ACHDs plan review process.

When preparing your mitigation plan, please use the form which can be found at the following link:

<https://www.allegenycounty.us/Health-Department/Programs/Air-Quality/Permitting.aspx>

We are hosting a Q&A session on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 from 1:00 – 2:30. To RSVP please call or email Karen Sagel: 412-578-8115 or karen.sagel@allegenycounty.us.

If you have any questions, please contact Tom Lattner, Air Quality Engineer, at 412-578-7986.

Thank you for your time and cooperation,

Sincerely,

Dean DeLuca

Dean DeLuca
Air Quality Program Manager
301 39th St., Building #7
Pittsburgh, PA 15201-1811