



CLEARING THE AIR

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EPA STRENGTHENS AIR POLLUTION STANDARDS

Richard Stedman, Air Pollution Control Officer

For the first time in over a decade, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule imposing tighter restrictions on fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). PM_{2.5} is a form of pollution from fine particles in air that are 2.5 micrometers (about one ten-thousandth of an inch, approximately 30 times smaller than the width of a human hair) or less in diameter. PM_{2.5} is typically made up of organic chemicals, dust, soot, and metals. These particles can come from cars and trucks, factories, wood burning, and other activities. (continued

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