



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

1/19/2025

**Notice of Proposed PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standards
Exceptional Events Demonstrations and Comment Period**

NORTH LITTLE ROCK— The Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment, Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has prepared proposed draft Exceptional Events Demonstration (EED) for 2022-2023 Canada and Mexico wildfire events impacting Arkansas’ air quality. This draft EED requests that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concurs with the exclusion of specified PM2.5 concentrations from regulatory decisions and attainment determinations for Pulaski County and for Union County. The days and sites for which DEQ is requesting concurrence were impacted by events consistent with the EPA’s definition of “unusual or naturally occurring events that can affect air quality but are not reasonably controllable using techniques that tribal, state, or local air agencies may implement in order to attain and maintain the NAAQS” (PM2.5 NAAQS Memorandum, EPA 2024).

DEQ by this notice solicits comments of any interested party regarding the proposed draft EED by submitting comments on or before the end of the public comment period, which is 4:30 p.m. Central Standard Time (CST) on Feb. 18, 2025. Comments received during the public comment period from stakeholders and the public will be made a part of the record.

An electronic copy of the proposed draft EED is available online at <https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/air/planning/sip/2024pm25.aspx>.

Comments should be delivered or mailed to: Demetria Kimbrough, Department of Energy and Environment, 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118, or emailed to ee.comment@arkansas.gov.

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