

West Silver Valley Citizen Advisory Meeting

September 25, 2014

Presentation by DEQ

The West Silver Valley Citizen Advisory Meeting met on Thursday September 25 at the Pinehurst City Hall. In attendance were 15 local residents. The meeting started off with a PowerPoint presentation which covered the following:

Area does not meet Air Quality Standards

- Proposed as Nonattainment Area (NAA)

DEQ has a mandate to protect public health

Develop an Approvable SIP (State Implementation Plan)

- A SIP is a plan that shows how a state will meet the NAAQS
 - Required for areas that are Nonattainment
 - Required by the Clean Air Act
 - SIPs protect our air
 - SIPs are required by law
 - Failure to produce a SIP has consequences

Public Involvement Process

- Necessary component of the SIP
- DEQ views the public as its partner in protecting the environment

A stakeholder is anyone who could be affected by the SIP and has a stake in its outcome

Control Measures

- Part of the SIP
- Need to be set and Determined for Idaho

Citizen Input

Comments/topics received during the meeting:

- Air pollution is coming from another place. During the evaluation process, it found that: Residential wood combustion in the cold, winter months is most responsible for elevated particulate matter in the area, while prescribed burning in the late autumn and in the spring also contributes substantially. Smoke from wildfires can affect the area in the summer. Smoke from crop residue burning is a negligible contributor to PM_{2.5} in the West Silver Valley. For this designation process, the Area of Analysis was chosen to include all known sources that contribute to high PM_{2.5} levels at the Pinehurst monitor as well as a wider area to include a representative sample of nearby monitoring stations and potentially important sources.
- Questions on placement of the monitor. The siting of the monitor follows strict EPA guidelines found in appendix E to Part 58--Probe and Monitoring Path Siting Criteria for Ambient Air Quality Monitoring and are re-evaluated routinely.
- Post the daily AQI/AQA in the newspaper to help residents make informed decisions. Currently, DEQ sends this information out to schools, fire jurisdictions, radio and

TV stations. The email contains forecasted air quality and recommendations for open burning. The Shoshone News and KWAL radio are publishing/airing this information.

- **Concerns regarding the influence of trucks/heavy equipment on concentrations.**
A random sample of filters will be analyzed to determine the actual makeup of particulate matter on the filters. In 2008 10-15 filters from the Pinehurst monitor exposed during cool weather were analyzed. The analysis showed that approximately 94% of the material was carbon from wood smoke.
- **Some attendees are uncomfortable believing PM2.5 affect the health of residents.** More information regarding health effects of particulate matter can be found here: http://www.epa.gov/ncea/pdfs/partmatt/Dec2009/PM_ISA_full.pdf (large file - 2228 pp, 1,105 MB, PDF)
- **Most attendees were concerned about the availability of funding for any reduction/education/outreach efforts.** At this time, funding will be critical for the success of our efforts and DEQ will work with the county, cities and federal partners to identify any potential funding opportunities.
- **Several attendees felt having an AQ update at each meeting would help (where are we now).** These updates will be provided to the group at each meeting.
- **Attendees identified open outdoor burning, recreational fires pits, slash burning, fall leaf removal, weatherization and woodstove change outs as local impacts that could be addressed.** These items will be tracked and addressed at future meetings.