

Herald and News, available at http://www.heraldandnews.com/news/local_news/groups-challenge-lakeview-designation/article_f437569a-3fb8-11e4-bfa4-2720eb5ed653.html?mode=jqm, (last accessed Sept. 19, 2014)

Groups challenge Lakeview designation

By LEE JUILLERAT H&N Regional Editor | Posted 14 hours ago

Lake County people are part of a coalition of regional and national conservation organizations that has submitted a petition to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) asking it to redesignate Lakeview as non-attainment. That is based on what it claims are repeated violations of the federal health-based standard for ambient air quality.

In a press release, the group said the 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) is 35 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³). From 2011 to 2013, ambient air in Lakeview averaged 56µg/m³ - the fifth worst in the nation. In 2013, the group said fine particulate in the ambient air in Lakeview was more than two times the federal standard at 94 µg/m³.

“PM_{2.5} can accumulate deep in the respiratory system and is associated with numerous adverse health effects, including premature death, increased hospital admissions and emergency room visits, and the development of chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma,” the release said. “PM_{2.5} also causes visibility impairment, adverse effects on vegetation and ecosystems, and physical damage to property.”

This definition should follow the lede: “A non-attainment designation would impose stricter emissions controls in the area with a deadline to reduce PM_{2.5} levels throughout the community,” coalition members said in the release. “In order to avoid a redesignation to non-attainment and skirt the strict controls associated with it, Lakeview and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have proposed various buffer programs that would allow continued development in the area. Yet these programs fail to require emissions reductions from existing industrial sources, leaving the area with ongoing PM_{2.5} problems without adequate non-attainment controls.”

“It is clear from EPA’s data that Lakeview is not a borderline violator of the Clean Air Act,” said Marla Nelson of the Northwest Environmental Defense Center. “Because Lakeview has consistently violated the federal standard, it should properly be re-designated to non-attainment.”

Two large-scale bio fuel energy facilities are being proposed in Lakeview. The DEQ has authorized construction of a 24-megawatt biomass electrical generation facility by Iberdrola Renewables. In addition, Red Rock Biofuels has proposed a \$70 million venture in Lakeview that would annually convert 140,000 tons of juniper trees into 14 million gallons of jet fuel.

“Corporations should at least be required to pay to worsen our air quality,” said Chris Zinda, a Lakeview resident and advocate who is a petition signer. “The residents of Lakeview and

Oregon's taxpayers should not be forced to bear the health and economic costs caused by big industry.”

Zinda said the petition was submitted on behalf of the Northwest Environmental Defense Center, Oregon Wild, WildEarth Guardians, Beyond Toxics, Save Our Rural Oregon, Save America's Forests, Our Forests, Anti-Biomass Incineration Campaign/Energy Justice Network, Crag Law Center, Cascadia Wildlands, Neighbors for Clean Air, and a group of concerned citizens that includes him, George Wuerthner, Dolores Benson and Bob Palzer.

A link to the petition is available at <http://law.lclark.edu/live/files/17984-petition-to-redesignate.pdf>.