



**ARIZONA
ROCK
PRODUCTS
ASSOCIATION**

Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mailcode: 2822T
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW.
Washington, DC 20460,

Re: **Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2007-0492**

Dear EPA Docket Personnel:

The Arizona Rock Products Association (ARPA) writes to convey our concern regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Second Draft Policy Assessment (PA) for Particulate Matter (PM) released on July 8, 2010 in the Federal Register. According to the PA, EPA would be justified in either retaining the current national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) of 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for coarse PM or in revising it to levels as low as 65-85 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, depending on the emphasis placed on uncertainties in the scientific evidence. A coarse PM NAAQS of 65-85 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ would be roughly twice as stringent as the current standard, which has been difficult if not impossible for industries in the Western portion of the country, especially in the Phoenix non attainment area, to achieve.¹ Adoption of a more stringent standard would cause widespread noncompliance at our operations, acting in effect to preclude expansion and limit current production even further.

For over 50 years, the Arizona Rock Products Association (ARPA) has been providing representation for over 50 member companies involved with the production of aggregates, asphaltic concrete, ready mix concrete, asphalt, lime products, and portland cement. Our members, along with over 60 associate members providing related transportation, contracting, and consulting services, will be adversely impacted by such a dramatic change.

It is important to note that the PA states, as it has in the past, that the currently available scientific evidence could be interpreted to support retention of the existing coarse PM standard. The reason for this is that the available health studies suffer from a series of scientific limitations that have been widely acknowledged. The magnitude of these limitations is reflected by the wide disparity between the alternatives that the PA recommends: retain the current standard or essentially cut the level in half.

These concerns are well-documented in the draft PA and in EPA's PM Integrated Science Assessment, which concludes that the health data for coarse PM are merely "suggestive" of a causal relationship with adverse effects. EPA has concluded that these limitations render the

¹ We recognize that a shift to the 98th percentile form, as the PA recommends for the more stringent alternatives, could affect the relative stringency of the standards. However, the implications of such a shift remain extremely uncertain, and industry data indicate that a standard of 85 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ is not the 98% equivalent of 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as the draft PA suggests. This issue is discussed in detail in the Comments of the Coarse PM Coalition. Further, there is no guarantee that a tighter standard in the final regulations would be accompanied by such a change in form.

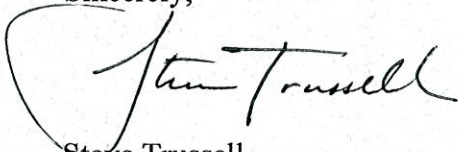
coarse PM data unfit for quantitative risk assessment, and the agency's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee has agreed.

If the new studies are sufficiently uncertain as to preclude meaningful assessment of potential risk, they should not be interpreted to require a 50% tightening of the standard. Such a position would appear to contradict the congressional policies underlying the ambient standards program.

The courts have held that current law prohibits consideration of economic effects in the establishment of these standards. Accordingly, balanced scientific decisions are all the more important. It is also important to consider the public health consequences of increased or extended unemployment resulting from a more stringent standard, particularly in these economic times.

ARPA requests the EPA ensure that the agency's interpretations of the scientific evidence for coarse PM are reasonably balanced and necessary to protect public health, without causing the unnecessary economic dislocation that will surely result if the scientific studies are unduly stretched. In this case, ARPA believes that such considerations argue unequivocally for retention of the existing standard. ARPA urges the EPA to support retention of the existing coarse PM standard in the final PA, and we thank you for considering these issues of vital importance to our association and the people who rely on this vital industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Trussell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "S" that loops around the first part of the name.

Steve Trussell
Executive Director