



May 29, 2020

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler,
Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Submitted through Regulations.gov

Attention: Docket ID EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0072

Re: Comment deadline extension for the Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter

Dear Administrator Wheeler:

On March 13, 2020, the President declared a national emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as of May 19, more than 1.5 million Americans have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and, sadly, 100,000 people have died. Many health professionals including nurses, physicians, researchers, and other public health professionals are focused on response to the pandemic, as they should be. A rule as important as a National Ambient Air Quality Standard merits full public participation, especially the participation of health and medical professionals who treat patients suffering from health issues related to air pollution or perform research on air pollution impacts.

As such, we respectfully request an extension of the comment period on the Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter of at least 30 additional days after

the end of the national emergency, or 30 additional days after the close of the originally scheduled comment period to July 28, 2020, whichever is later.

The particulate matter standards drive pollution cleanup and will impact the health and well-being of millions of Americans. The administrative record includes significant documents, including the 1,967-page Integrated Policy Assessment and 534-page Policy Assessment. The setting of standards that are requisite to protect the public health with an adequate margin of safety is a core obligation required by the Clean Air Act. Extending the comment period will help facilitate the public participation that the Clean Air Act requires.

The COVID-19 national emergency poses unique challenges to our nation and the world. We believe that an extension of this comment period will provide us and other stakeholders, particularly those in the health and medical community, greater opportunity for full and meaningful public participation.

We wish you and all of your EPA colleagues good health during this time of national emergency.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Allergy & Asthma Network

American Heart Association

American Lung Association

American Public Health Association

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health

American Thoracic Society

Center for Climate Change and Health

Children's Environmental Health Network

Health Care Without Harm

International Society for Environmental Epidemiology – North American Chapter

National Association of County and City Health Officials

National Environmental Health Association

Physicians for Social Responsibility

