

Lake County Examiner, available at <http://lakecountyexam.com/petition-filed-to-redesignate-lakeview-as-nonattainment/> (last accessed Sept. 19, 2014)

## **Petition filed to redesignate Lakeview as nonattainment**

*September 17, 2014 by Lake County Examiner*

A coalition of regional and national conservation organizations and concerned citizens submitted a petition to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) asking for redesignation of Lakeview as nonattainment based on repeated violations of federal standards for ambient air quality.

The 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) is 35 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m<sup>3</sup>). From 2011-2013, ambient air in Lakeview averaged 56 ug/m<sup>3</sup>, the fifth worst in the nation. In 2013 alone, fine particulate in the ambient air in Lakeview was more than two times the federal standard.

PM<sub>2.5</sub> 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 development of chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma. PM<sub>2.5</sub> also causes visibility impairment, adverse effects on vegetation and ecosystems, and physical damage to property.

A nonattainment designation would impose stricter emissions controls in the area with a deadline to reduce PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels throughout the community.

In order to avoid redesignation to nonattainment, Lakeview and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have proposed various buffer programs that would allow continued development. These programs don't require emissions reductions from existing industrial sources, however, leaving the area with ongoing PM<sub>2.5</sub> problems.

"It's 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 be redesignated to nonattainment."

Despite Lakeview currently facing air quality problems, two large-scale bio fuel energy facilities are being proposed; a 24-megawatt biomass electrical generation facility by Iberdrola Renewables and Red Rock Biofuels proposing a \$70 million venture in Lakeview to annually convert 140,000 tons of juniper trees into 14 million gallons of jet fuel.

The petition was submitted on behalf of several organizations including 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 concerned citizens George Wuerthner, Dolores Benson, Bob Palzer and Chris Zinda.