



State of Utah

Department of
Environmental Quality

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NEWS RELEASE

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DEQ Invites Public to Participate in Air Quality Plan Meetings

Salt Lake City, Utah – The Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ) on Wednesday and Thursday will be holding a series of informational meetings along the Wasatch Front about its plan to meet federal air quality standards for very fine particles, known as particulate matter 2.5 (PM 2.5).

The aim of the meetings is to update stakeholders and the public on what the Division has been doing over the past year and describe the process for the next year. Specifically, the PM 2.5 problem will be described, the emissions inventories will be unveiled, and the air quality modeling will be explained. This information is an attempt to help the public understand some of the primary issues of the problem and the proposed strategies that will take place the remainder of the year.

The meetings are the first phase of a five-year State Implementation Plan (SIP) process, mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency because several Utah counties fail to meet the PM 2.5 standards.

“We are working hard to develop strategies that will bring PM 2.5 levels down and protect the health of Utahns living within the three non-attainment areas including the combined northern Wasatch Front counties, Utah and Cache counties” said DAQ director Bryce Bird.

Bird and his staff will unveil a new, customized model to help determine which pollution reduction strategies will help Utah meet the standard. The model has proved highly successful thus far, coming very close to matching predicted pollution episodes to actual pollution episodes.

In addition to a new air quality model, DAQ is also implementing a new public participation process that welcomes input early and often. With 24 meetings set to take place throughout the rest of the year, DAQ is hoping that those interested in providing public comment and helping develop PM 2.5 reduction strategies will lend a hand. Information about the meetings, process, and how to be involved can be found at: <http://www.deq.utah.gov/Issues/hottopics/pm25.htm>.

“Public participation is needed on this very important issue that impacts all of us,” said Amanda Smith, executive director of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality. “I’m confident that with the expertise of the DAQ staff, the commitment of the stakeholder groups, and the continued coordination and partnership with EPA, that we’ll have a successful plan and improved air quality.”

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Meeting Details:

June 1, 2011 -- *Utah County*

9:00-11:00 am

Utah County Administration Building, Rooms L700-900
100 East Center Street, Provo

June 1, 2011 – *Salt Lake County*

(for the counties of Box Elder, Davis, Salt Lake, Tooele, and Weber)

*2:00-4:00 pm

Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Board Room 1015
195 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City

*Note: This meeting is being held after the Division of Air Quality Board meeting, which will have an abbreviated agenda to accommodate the Stakeholder Kickoff. This meeting will be Webcast and recorded and will be available for viewing after June 1st.

June 2, 2011 -- *Cache County*

Utah State University

John A. Widtsoe Hall Building, Room 007

2:00-4:00 pm

Visitors can park in either the Big Blue or Aggie Parking Terraces

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