

## Nonattainment Factsheet

*Covering the counties of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit  
(Cleveland-Akron-Elyria Combined Statistical Area)*

December 2012

The Clean Air Act requires the U.S. EPA to set [National Ambient Air Quality Standards](#) (NAAQS) for six common air pollutants (also known as criteria pollutants). They include particle pollution (often referred to as particulate matter), ground-level ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, and lead. These pollutants can harm your health and the environment, and can cause property damage. Learn more about the harmful effects of criteria pollutants by visiting [U.S. EPA's website](#). Areas that do not meet the health-based limits on air quality are designated by the U.S. EPA as nonattainment areas.

Regions that fail to meet EPA air quality standards can be designated as “nonattainment” areas, which can bring potential [consequences](#) ranging from increased regulations to reduced transportation funding to a loss of economic development opportunities. Currently, portions of northeast Ohio are designated by the U.S. EPA as nonattainment areas for ozone, fine particles and lead. Northeast Ohio is either unclassified or in attainment for carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides. A summary of nonattainment areas is provided in the table below. States are required to develop and implement air quality plans in the nonattainment areas in order to reduce pollution precursors and attain the NAAQS. More information about this process can be found on NOACA's website - [Ozone SIP Planning](#) and [PM<sub>2.5</sub> SIP Planning](#).

**Table of Nonattainment Areas in Cleveland-Akron-Elyria CSA**

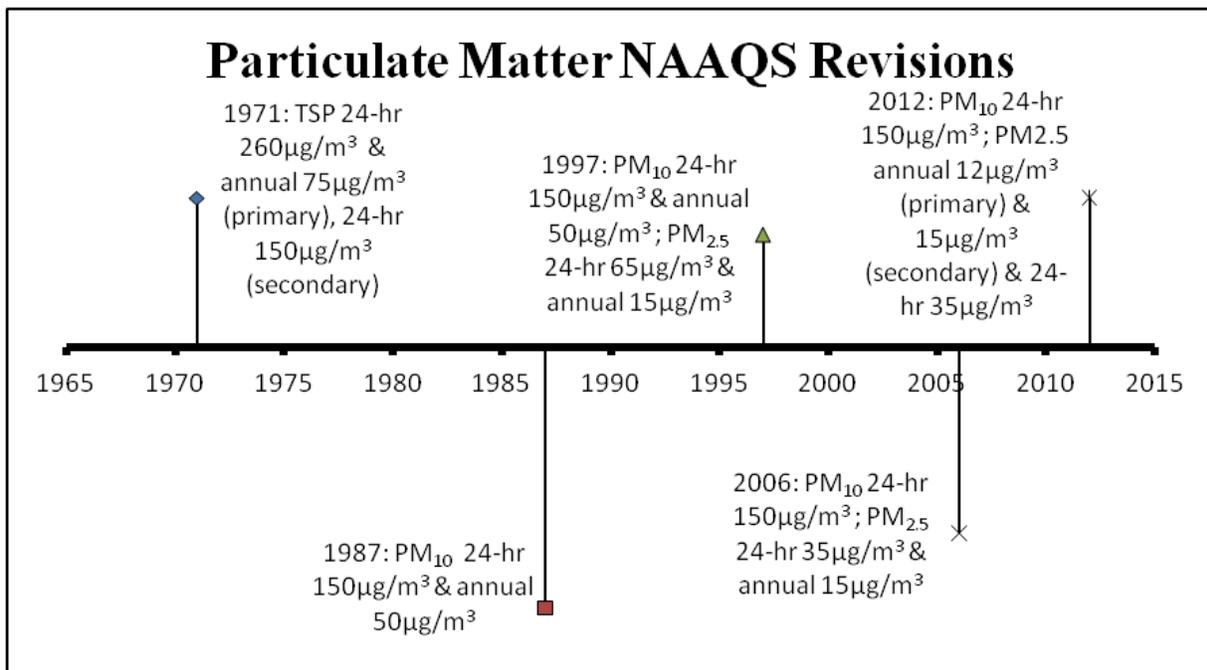
<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>NAAQS</b>	<b>Averaging Time</b>	<b>Nonattainment Area</b>
Ozone	75 ppb	8-hour	Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit counties
Fine Particles	15 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	annual	Ashtabula Township, Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit counties
	35 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	24-hour	Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit counties
Lead	0.15 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Rolling 3-month average	Cuyahoga county (partial)

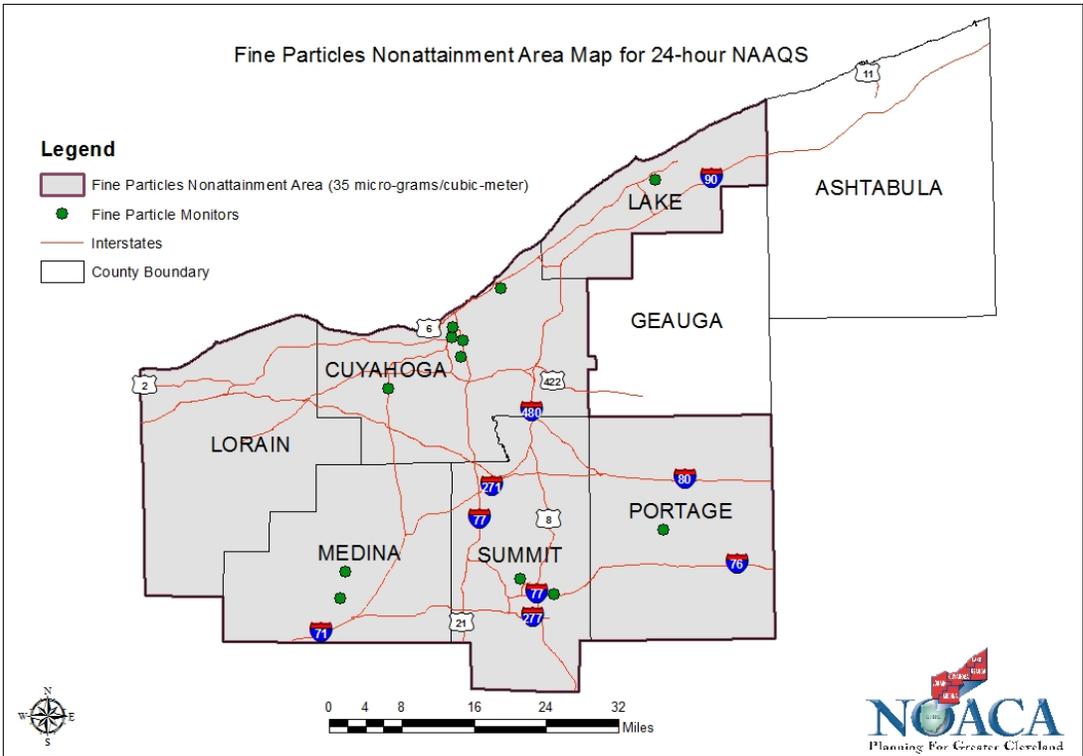
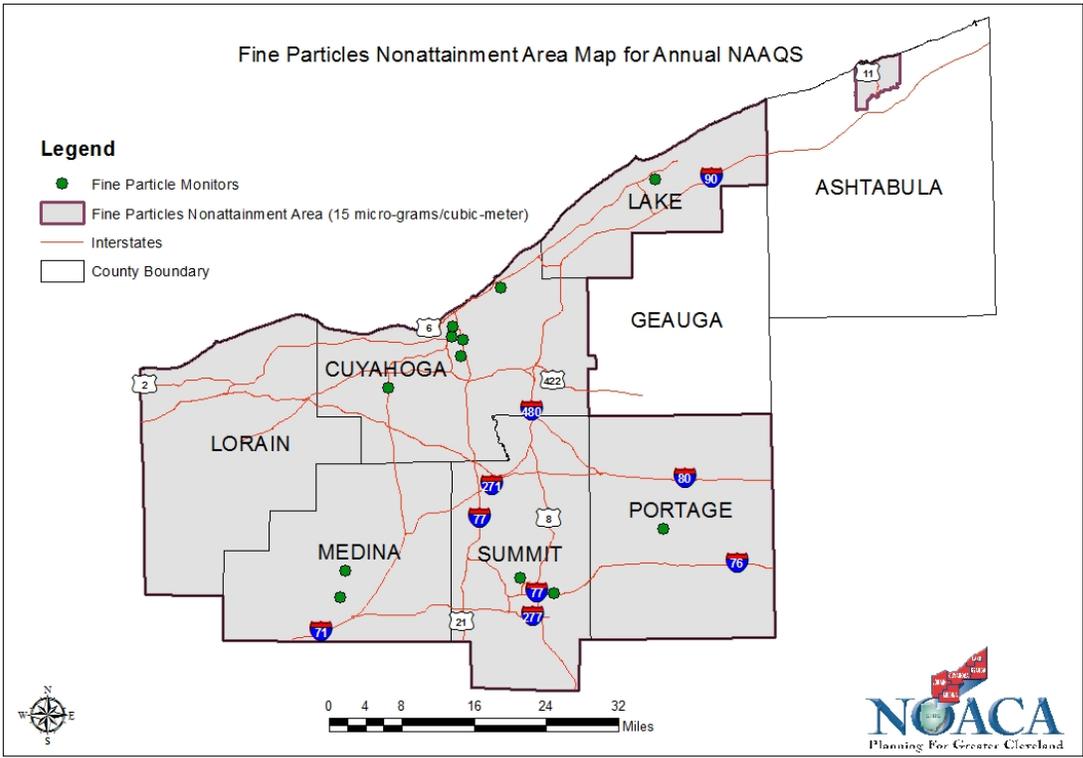


**Fine Particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>):** Standards for particulate matter were first set in 1971. However, fine particle standards were specifically delineated starting in 1997. Currently, there are multiple primary and secondary PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS:

- 1) A primary standard of 12µg/m<sup>3</sup>, annual arithmetic mean averaged over 3 years
- 2) A secondary standard of 15µg/m<sup>3</sup>, annual arithmetic mean averaged over 3 years
- 3) A primary and secondary standard of 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, 98<sup>th</sup> percentile averaged over 3 years of the 24-hour rolling average

The most recent revision of fine particle standards was finalized by U.S. EPA on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012. A final rule in federal register is pending during the preparation of this report. Portions of northeast Ohio have been in nonattainment for the 15µg/m<sup>3</sup> and 35µg/m<sup>3</sup>, as depicted in the maps below. The nonattainment areas were designated for the annual standard of 15µg/m<sup>3</sup> based on the 1997 NAAQS revision in January 2005 (70 FR 944), and for the 24-hour standard of 35µg/m<sup>3</sup> based on 2006 NAAQS revision in November 2009 (74 FR 58688).





**Lead (Pb):** On October 15, 2008 U.S. EPA substantially strengthened the health-based, or primary, NAAQS for lead by lowering it from 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) – a level set in 1978 – to a level of 0.15  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (73 FR 66964). The portions of Cuyahoga County that surround the Ferro Corporation (bounded on the west by Washington Park Blvd./Crete Ave./East 49th St., on the east by East 71st St., on the north by Fleet Ave., and on the south by Grant Ave.) were designated as a nonattainment area for lead effective December 31, 2010.

### Lead Nonattainment Area

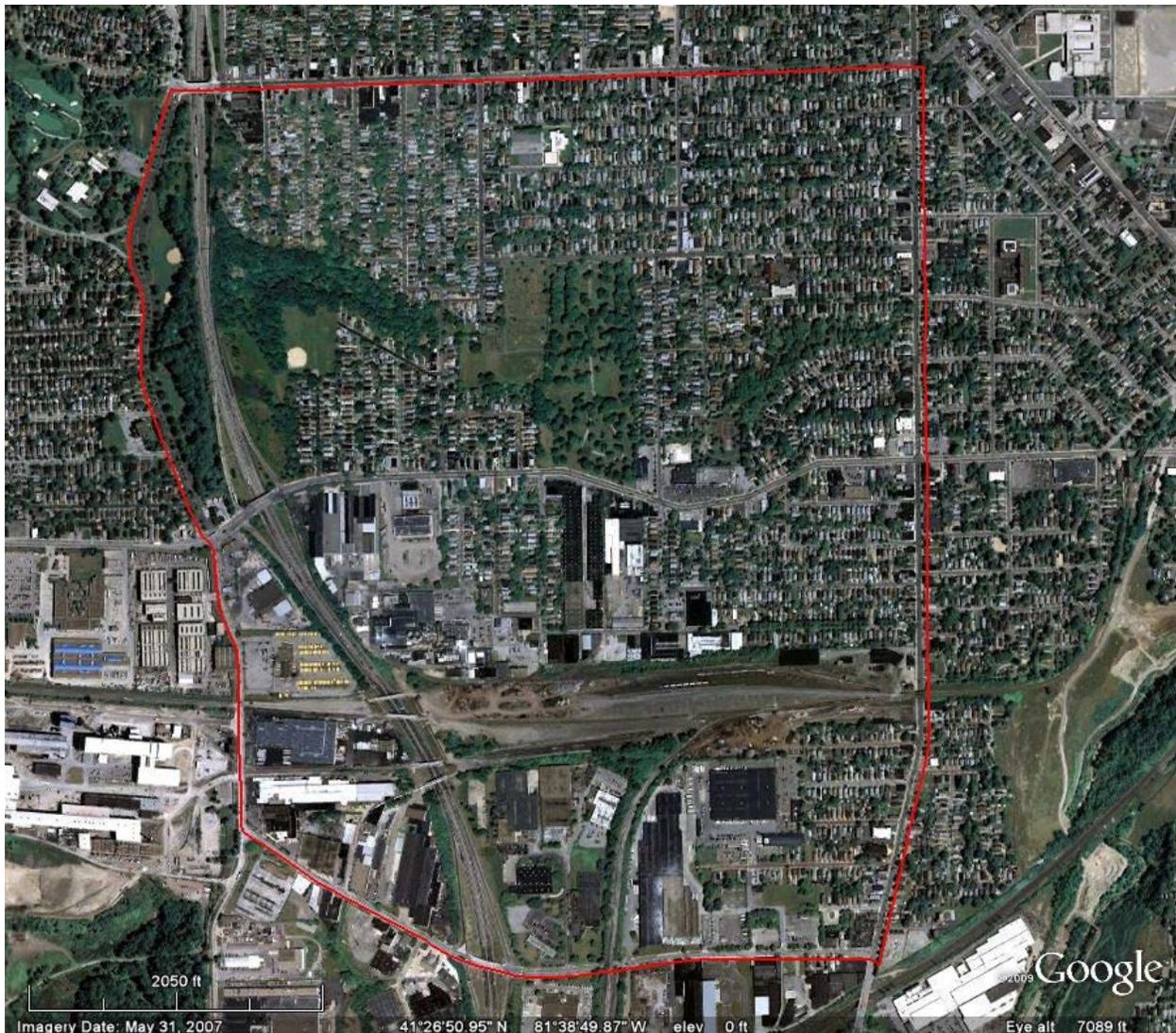


Image source: [http://www.epa.gov/leaddesignations/2008standards/rec/letters/05\\_OH\\_EPAMOD3.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/leaddesignations/2008standards/rec/letters/05_OH_EPAMOD3.pdf)