



NEAP: El Paso, Natural Events Action Plan, February 21, 2007

On February 21, 2007, the TCEQ adopted the El Paso Natural Events Action Plan (NEAP) to manage particulate matter (PM) exceedances that can be attributed to uncontrollable natural events, particularly high winds that result in dust storms.

Summary of the NEAP

Adoption Date: 02/21/2007

Background: The El Paso area has experienced periodic exceedances of the 24-hour particulate matter of 10 microns or less (PM₁₀) standard. Analysis of wind data and other information regarding conditions during the exceedances indicates that the major cause was high winds, which lift and carry dust from exposed dry soil. In 1996, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Natural Events Policy (NEP) set forward procedures, through the development of a NEAP, for areas that wish to protect public health when the PM₁₀ standard may not be met due to these uncontrollable natural events.

The El Paso Natural Events Action Plan (NEAP) manages exceedances of the PM₁₀ and particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less (PM_{2.5}) standards that can be attributed to uncontrollable natural events such as unusually high winds that result in dust storms.

Key Changes:

The El Paso NEAP contains the following elements:

- **Documentation and Analysis:** The TCEQ maintains a network of monitoring stations to measure the concentration of criteria pollutants, one of which is PM. The El Paso NEAP provides for analysis of and action from exceedances caused by natural events. Developing the El Paso NEAP and "flagging" PM NAAQS exceedances in the monitoring database that are attributable to natural events, are prerequisites to achieving attainment status for PM in the El Paso area.
- **Public Education and Outreach:** The El Paso NEAP manages the impact of high concentrations of PM attributable to uncontrollable natural events, and protects public health by outlining strategies developed by the local communities to educate the public about the harmful effects of high concentrations of PM. These local programs and activities inform the public of high wind events that occur in the area, the associated high PM levels, the potential health effects and ways to minimize the public's exposure to future high wind events.
- **Best Available Control Measures (BACM):** The El Paso NEAP discusses potential sources of windblown dust in the area, identifies local ordinances and agreements developed for implementation of solutions, and requires use of BACM to reduce emissions from anthropogenic activities.

NEAP Narrative and Appendices

Files linked from this page are in Portable Document Format ([PDF](#)).

El Paso Natural Events Action Plan (Project No. 2006-040-SIP-NR)

- [Adopted El Paso NEAP Narrative](#)
- [Adopted Appendices](#)



Texas State Implementation Plan

- Appendix A: The EPA Natural Events Policy, May 30, 1996 and The EPA Response Letter to Western States Air Resources Council
- Appendix B: April 4, 2005, Dust Storm
- Appendix C: Memorandum of Agreement between City of El Paso and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
- Appendix D: Local Programs
- Appendix E: 30 TAC Chapter 111 Subchapter A Division 4 Pages 17-19: Materials Handling, Construction, Roads, Streets, Alleys and Parking Lots
- Appendix F: Joint Advisory Committee Members [Exit...](#) and Resolution
- Appendix G: Letters of Support
- Appendix H: Public Notice Documentation
- Appendix I: Public Hearing Comments and TCEQ responses