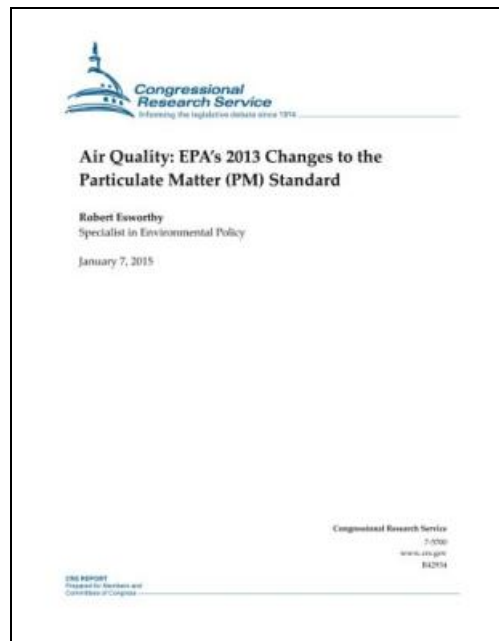


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CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. 48 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.1in. On January 15, 2013, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a final rule revising the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM). The revised air quality standards were completed pursuant to the Clean Air Act (CAA) and, in part, in response to a court order and consent agreement. Based on its review of scientific studies available since the agency's previous review in 2006, EPA determined that evidence continued to show associations between particulates in ambient air and numerous significant health problems, including aggravated asthma, chronic bronchitis, nonfatal heart attacks, and premature death. Populations shown to be most at risk include children, older adults, and those with heart and lung disease, and those of lower socioeconomic status. EPA's review of and revisions to the PM NAAQS have generated considerable debate and oversight in Congress. The January 2013 revisions change the existing (2006) annual health-based (primary) standard for fine particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter (or PM_{2.5}), lowering the allowable average concentration of PM_{2.5} in the air from the current level of 15 micrograms per cubic meter (gm³) to a limit of 12 gm³. The annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS is set so as to address human health effects from chronic exposures to the pollutants. The existing 24-hour primary standard for PM_{2.5} that was reduced from 65 gm³ to 35 gm³ in 2006 was retained, as was the existing standard for larger, but still inhalable, coarse particles less than 10 micrometers in diameter, or PM₁₀. As it did in 2006, EPA set secondary standards that provide protection against welfare (nonhealth) effects, such as ecological effects and material deterioration, identical to the primary standards. EPA...



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