



Walter Wright, Jr.
wwright@mwlaw.com
(501) 688.8839

Equivalent Test Method/Clean Air Act: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Federal Register Notice Designating New Method for Monitoring Ambient Air Quality

11/04/2022

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) published an October 28th Federal Register Notice announcing it has designated one new equivalent method for measuring concentrations of Particulate Matter in the 2.5-micron range (“PM2.5”) in ambient air. See 87 Fed. Reg. 65203.

Pursuant to the authority of the Clean Air Act and in accordance with regulations at 40 CFR Part 53, EPA evaluates methods for monitoring the concentrations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (“NAAQS”) as set forth in 40 CFR Part 50.

Such monitoring methods must meet certain specific requirements for adequacy as either reference or equivalent for utilization by states to determine compliance with the applicable NAAQS. EPA typically announces approval of an equivalent test or monitoring method as it is approved. A list of all reference or equivalent methods that have been previously approved by EPA is found at <http://www.EPA.gov/ttn/amtic/criteria.html>.

The October 28th Federal Register Notice describes an automated method (analyzer) utilizing an optically based measurement principle to measure concentrations of PM2.5 in the ambient air. The equivalent method is designated:

EQPM-0922-260 “Ambilabs Model PM2.5 WIN FEM Monitor”

EPA states that an application for this equivalent method determination was received by its Office of Research and Development on July 12th. The analyzer is stated to be commercially available from Ambilabs, 100 Elm Street, Warren, Rhode Island 02885.

A copy of the Federal Register Notice can be downloaded [here](#).