

**THE CASE FOR REGULATION OF FINE PARTICLE POLLUTION
HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED FOR AN INDEPENDENT DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

“Doyle: The Air’s Just Fine” is a perfect example of why the Natural Resources Board must regain the authority to appoint the DNR Secretary. Doyle and his political appointees to the Bureau of Air Management ignored the recommendations of senior staff when requesting that the U.S. EPA designate Wisconsin as in “attainment” for fine particle pollution.

The data shows that fine particle pollution threatens health in many areas of the state, including Milwaukee, Waukesha, Dane and Green Bay. Particulate air pollution can affect the heart and lungs, triggering heart attacks and strokes. According to a recent Harvard University study, long term exposure shortens lives and contributes to increased deaths from heart and lung disease.

If the EPA accepts Doyle’s plan, new or expanding sources of pollution would not need to “offset” their emissions or apply stringent control technologies. While this would ease the economic burden on industry, this is not an acceptable alternative: the health risks are too great and the Clean Air Act doesn’t allow for such trade-offs.

It’s past time to take return to the DNR to an office independent of the Governor, where decisions can be made based on solid science and law.

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