

Episodes 52a, 52b, 52c and 52d

Episode 52a February 16, 2023 Example COMMENT from Madison, Wisconsin. URL to register to TESTIFY VIRTUALLY 2/21/2023 to 2/23/2023 <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7193748/Public-Hearing-on-EPA-NAAQS-PM-FEB-2023> or WRITE COMMENT by 3/28/2023 on EPA PM2.5 limit lowered to 8 micrograms per meter cubed (ug/m3) to be nearer to W H O limit of 5 micrograms per meter cubed.. San Diego, California BEACH FIRES, Massachusetts, Wisconsin CONSERVATION RESOLUTIONS by 3/1/2023, U K, Ireland BREACHES, Georgia or Ossetia or Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh BLOCKADE worsened by wood smoke pollution), Ukraine, India, Taiwan, Thailand. Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates (RAWSEPresidents)

EPA change of PM2.5 limit to 8 micrograms per meter cubed

EXAMPLE of COMMENT TO EPA asking PM2.5 limit be changed from 12 micrograms per meter cubed to 8 micrograms per meter cubed, nearer to the World Health Organization (W H O) limit of 5

January 13, 2023

Hello Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),

Please change the limit for Particulate Matter of 2.5 micrometer size (PM2.5) from 12 micrometers per meter cubed to 8 micrometers per meter cubed, bringing the limit closer to the World Health Organization (WHO) standard of 5 micrometer per meter cubed. Indoor residential wood burning is like choosing NOT to wear a mask against the spread of COVID 19 at the height of a pandemic before vaccines are available. Deaths happened that did not have to happen when people refused to wear masks. I believe your constitutional right to swing your fist ends, when your fist hits my face. Ending residential wood burning is the aim of Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates, RAWSEP, my organization for the last 15 years. Just because it is hard to make individual residents take personal responsibility for their role in air pollution is not a reason to NOT have ordinances against INDOOR residential wood burning. I think my organization has analogies to M A D D Mothers Against Drunk Driving, because of the need to educate about the dangers of continuing both practices. Indoor residential wood burning, especially in cities, is not a tradition. Biomass burning, mostly wood burning, was enshrined as renewable and given subsidies in only the last FEW DECADES, although scientists object. This year the European Union ended most subsidies for Biomass slash Wood burning. A recent Panorama TV documentary exposed the fact that the 2nd largest Biomass slash Wood Burning Plant in the world, in England, Drax, is highly polluting, and is decimating forests in Canada and the Southern United States to feed its polluting wood burning appetite.

I have a website RAWSEPresidents.com. I have Tiktok <https://www.tiktok.com/@user869894886> <https://www.tiktok.com/search?q=rawsep%20residents&t=1673639710720> and YouTube videos <https://www.youtube.com/@rawsepresidents4370>

and Spotify <https://open.spotify.com/show/32hfc477jEeeDbQoTsu82l> and Podbean https://rawsepresidents.podbean.com/?fbclid=IwAR1W-VNSUFAB9gJ82bzyV_wzgWK4GHKjcdsScyx5rR_j0Wv95iGLHsGAXb4 podcasts and a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083475303577> . The City of Madison was recently given nearly half a million dollars by the Biden Administration to fight particulate pollution. The solution to the problem of Residential Wood Burning is to give a PurpleAir PM2.5 monitor to any resident of the City of Madison, Wisconsin, who complains that wood smoke from a Neighbor is infiltrating their yards and homes. The \$249 purpleair monitor I purchased myself proves daily that in

my own yard I breathe 3 times the current Environmental Protection Agency healthy limit of particulate matter of 2.5 micrometer size, PM 2.5 during the cold months in Wisconsin. Wood smoke is 90% PM 2.5. The current practice of letting this pollution continue if the indoor residential wood stove is certified is an abject failure in containing hyper-localized air pollution that affects the health of near neighbors. PM2.5 is the perfect size to infiltrate the human lung setting off a cascade of human health problems and early deaths.

My name is Linda Karr and I am a resident of Madison Wisconsin who has lived 60 feet away from wood burning neighbors for the 17 years I have owned the house I bought for \$84,000, which proves I am low income. One occupant 60 feet away operated three wood stoves for 6 of those 17 years, and after I asked the Health Department to shut down the wood stove he had in his garage next to gas fueled cars he burned from remaining two wood stoves for an additional 8 years. The buyer of his house burned from a wood stove in his house for 1 year and has in the past few months added a wood stove in his garage next to gas fueled cars. If I notify the health department at this time, under local ordinances I will have the wood stove in his garage shut down, but not the wood stove in his house.

I routinely breathe 3 times over the current Environmental Protection Agency level of particulates of 2.5 micrometer size (PM 2.5) from the wood smoke that enters my yard and infiltrates my home, because I am a near neighbor of these wood burning neighbors. I use three air purifiers throughout the cold months in Wisconsin in a 672 square foot house. I live in a city where natural gas lines are connected to the house of the wood burning neighbors. The wood burning is done when the natural gas heat is turned down and the wood stove is used for ambience. The wood burning neighbor burns wood as a hobby, and owns a house assessed at twice the assessment of my house. It is often the case that wood burning neighbors are more affluent than their neighbors.

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7193748/Public-Hearing-on-EPA-NAAQS-PM-FEB-2023>

URL from which to **REGISTER to TESTIFY (virtually) February 21, 22 or 23 to the EPA** on lowering (Wood Smoke) PM2.5 limits from 12 to 8 micrograms per meter cubed (ug/m3) to be nearer to the World Health Organization (W H O) limit of 5.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENT until 3/28/2023 on EPA website (instructions below)

In the United States, the Comment Period is open until 3/28/2023 for your comments to the EPA on lowering the PM2.5 level from current level of 12 to level of 8 micrograms per meter cubed, in order to be nearer the World Health Organization (W H O) Level of 5 micrograms per meter cubed. PM refers to Particulate Matter and 2.5 refers to 2.5 micrometer size. Comments on the proposed action must be received on or before March 28, 2023. *Public Hearing:* The EPA will hold a virtual public hearing on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, and Wednesday, February 22, 2023. If the EPA receives a high volume of registrations for the public hearing, we may continue the public hearing on February 23, 2023. (Please refer to the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for additional information on the public hearings). You may submit comments, identified by Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0072, by any of the following means:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov/> (our preferred method). Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Email:* g-and-r-Docket@epa.gov. Include the Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0072 in the subject line of the message.

• *Mail:* U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center, Air and Radiation Docket, Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the Docket ID No. for this rulemaking. Comments received may be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

Episode 52b Virtual Public Hearing: The public hearing will be held via virtual platform on February 21, 2023, and February 22, 2023, and will convene at 11 a.m. Eastern Time (ET) and conclude at 7 p.m. ET each day. On each hearing day, the EPA may close a session 15 minutes after the last pre-registered speaker has testified if there are no additional speakers. The EPA will announce further details at <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/national-ambient-air-quality-standards-naaqs-pm>. If the EPA receives a high volume of registrations for the public hearing, we may continue the public hearing on February 23, 2023. For information or questions about the public hearing, please contact the public hearing team at 919-541-0505 or HEIDpublichearing@epa.gov.

For information or questions regarding the reconsideration of the PM NAAQS, please contact Dr. Lars Perlmutter, Health and Environmental Impacts Division, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code C539-04, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711; telephone: (919) 541-3037; fax: (919) 541-5315; email: perlmutter.lars@epa.gov.

This past week to February 17, 2023, research papers were published showing the disease links between wood smoke and Congenital Heart Defects.

Congenital Heart Defects and PM 2.5 exposure

[Maternal Exposure to PM2.5 and the Risk of Congenital Heart Defects in 1.4 Million Births](#)

AHA Journals

High maternal **PM2.5** exposure, especially during the preconception period, increases risk of certain types of CHD in offspring. These findings are ...

[Long-term exposure to air pollutants associated with geriatric depression - Healio](#)

Healio

Increased exposure to **PM2.5** was associated with a 0.91% (95% CI, 0.02-1.81) increase in depression risk, NO2 was associated with a 0.61% (95% CI, ...

U.S. States

California, San Diego

[City of San Diego Imposes New Rules on Wood-Burning Beach Fires | San Diego News Daily](#)

NBC 7 San Diego

City of San Diego imposes new rules on **wood-burning** beach fires. San Diego nonprofit helps migrants as end to Title 42 looms.

[Tree Trimmer Killed While Working on 80-Foot Palm Tree - NBC 7 San Diego](#)

NBC 7 San Diego

City of San Diego Imposes New Rules on **Wood-Burning** Beach Fires | San Diego News Daily · San Diego Nonprofit Continues Helping Migrants as End to ...

Massachusetts

[PHOTOS: **Smoke** investigation temporarily closes Bank Row in Greenfield](#)

Greenfield Recorder

Smoke was coming from the chimney of the closed **wood**-fired pizza restaurant. A post on Magpie's Facebook page notes the business will be temporarily ...

New Mexico

[Sandia National Laboratories/New Mexico – Thunder Range Test Site, Lovelace Rd & Magazine Rd](#)

City of Albuquerque

Wood burning is not currently prohibited; however, please consider limiting or avoiding **wood burning** where possible to help protect our air.

North Carolina

[Could the Cape Fear use trees to filter water instead of **burning** them? | Port City Daily](#)

Port City Daily

Burn piles release toxic **smoke** and carbon dioxide, but the most-promising alternative to dispose of the **wood** en masse — and with little environmental ...

Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 14, 2023

Contact: Kari Lee-Zimmermann, DNR Conservation Congress Liaison

kari.leezimmermann@wisconsin.gov or 608-266-0580

Wisconsinites Invited To Participate In WI

Conservation Congress Resolution Process

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) invites all Wisconsinites to take part in its annual spring hearing process.

The WCC is an independent organization of citizens that advises the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on how to responsibly manage Wisconsin's natural resources.

Each year citizens have an opportunity to submit ideas as resolutions to the WCC. In mid-January, the WCC District Leadership Council agreed to support the annual Spring Hearings Resolution process via an online process.

Wisconsinites can submit proposed resolutions via the online process which opens Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2023. Resolutions must meet the following criteria:

The concern must be of statewide impact.

The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.

The concern must be within the mission and vision of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

An individual citizen may submit no more than two resolutions per year. Those interested in submitting a resolution are encouraged to reach out to the resolution review committee or their WCC County Chair for guidance in drafting a resolution.

Additional tips on preparing a resolution are available on the WCC and DNR's Spring Hearings website.

Resolutions will be accepted until March 1, 2023. At the close of the submission process, the resolutions will be reviewed by a committee of WCC delegates to ensure they meet the criteria for inclusion and will be prepared for the online input which kicks off on Monday, April 10 and will close on Thursday, April 13.

For further information or questions, contact Terri Roehrig, Vice Chair Wisconsin Conservation Congress at 920-540-2775.

United Kingdom

Blood Pressure and Air Pollution in U K

[Air Pollution Tied to Changes in Systolic Blood Pressure in Teens - Healthday](#)

Healthday

When adjusting for ethnicity, age, anthropometry, and pubertal status, nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (**PM_{2.5}**) were associated with ...

[Fine air particles linked with high blood pressure among teen Londoners: Study](#)

Down To Earth

Long-term exposure to particulate matter (**PM**) **2.5** is associated with higher blood pressure in adolescents, a new study that analysed the data of ...

Wood Burning and U K

[Wood burning air pollution in UK has doubled in a decade - The Guardian](#)

The Guardian

Experts say wood burners have become 'middle-class status symbols' and government should regulate sale in urban areas. **Wood burning** stove.

['Devastating': PM2.5 levels in breach of emissions limits as domestic wood burning rises](#)

ENDS Report

According to DEFRA, most of these emissions come from households **burning wood** in closed stoves and open fires. Emissions of PM2.5 from domestic ...

[Wood-burning stoves and home fires are biggest source of toxic pollutant - The Times](#)

The Times

Wood-burning stoves and open fires in homes have become Britain's biggest source of a dangerous air pollutant, contributing to the government ...

[Pollution from trendy woodburning stoves has more than doubled in just a decade, new ...](#)

Daily Mail

Emissions of the pollutant PM2.5 from domestic **wood burning** alone increased 124 per cent between 2011 and 2021. PM2.5 is considered as the most ...

['Devastating': PM2.5 levels in breach of emissions limits as domestic wood burning rises](#)

ENDS Report

According to DEFRA, most of these emissions come from households **burning wood** in closed stoves and open fires. Emissions of PM2.5 from domestic ...

Episode 52c Leicestershire

[Canalside site on banks of Grand Union in Loughborough up for sale - Leicestershire Live](#)

Leicester Mercury

... 'Handsome' Grade II-listed country house for sale · Full list of smoke control areas for houses with **wood burning** stoves · Former village pub ...

[Jonnie Irwin fans say they 'can't live' without wood burning stove as star gives home update](#)

Leicester Mercury

In his latest update standing in front of a newly installed **wood burner** Jonnie said: "I've met a few local heroes doing up our house and Colin and ...

London

[Cost-of-living crisis is turning London back into the “Big Smoke” - New Statesman](#)

New Statesman

In the face of an energy price squeeze, **wood**-burners look like an economical option – but the toxic pollution they emit is reversing decades of ...**Wood-burner** sales hit 200,000 in 2022. Annual UK sales of **wood-burning** stoves (total units sold).

[Fact checker: Have **wood-burning** stoves been banned in London? - ENDS Report](#)

ENDS Report

It was recently reported that the mayor of London Sadiq Khan had set air quality limits for new developments which mean that **wood-burning** stoves .

Nottinghamshire

[Trading Standards carries out checks to ensure ready to burn fuel that's on sale in Notts is ...](#)

Nottinghamshire County Council

Nottinghamshire Trading Standards is also reminding residents of the law when using a **wood-burning** stove or an open fire. Smoke from burning causes ...

[Nottinghamshire Trading Standards inspectors making sure **burn** fuel for sale is suitable for ... - Chad](#)

Chad

With household budgets being squeezed due to the rising costs of living, the demand for **wood-burning** stoves has surged as more residents turn to ...

[UK city's air so polluted it's like **smoking** 189 cigarettes a year - see your area - The Mirror](#)

The Mirror

One city in the UK has such bad air pollution that it is equivalent to residents in Northampton **smoking** 189 cigarettes a year according to one ...

Ireland

[Dublin's air quality found to be generally 'good' - The Irish News](#)

Irish News

The project determined levels of six pollutants such as Particulate Matter (**PM 2.5**), Nitric Oxide (NO), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Carbon Monoxide ...

[EPA air quality report sees 'the same towns popping up again' for breaches | Newstalk](#)

Newstalk

"This is due, mostly likely, to the continued **burning** of fossil fuels in residential heating - coal, peat and **wood**. **A high number of air pollution incidents were recorded in several Irish towns last year, a new [Environmental Protection Agency report](#) has found.**

Ennis in Co Clare saw 31 breaches up to December 31st, while Tralee in Co Kerry had 14.

Other monitoring stations where there were a relatively high number of daily readings included Edenderry, Co Offaly (10); Longford town (9) and Macroom, Co Cork (7).

Dublin also had a combined figure, across several monitoring stations, of 39.

The daily limit for for particulate matter (PM10) is 50ug/m³. The limit is considered breached if there are more than 35 exceedents during the year.

Sadhbh O'Neill is a researcher in climate policy.

[She told *Newstalk Breakfast*](#) these are risks to people's health.

"This is due, mostly likely, to the continued burning of fossil fuels in residential heating - coal, peat and wood.

"To a certain extent nitrogen dioxide from traffic can contribute as well.

"The seriousness of this is that air pollution at these levels can increase the risk of stroke, heart disease and respiratory disease such as asthma.

"We know that up to 1,300 premature deaths are related to poor air quality in Ireland".

'Regulations not being implemented'

Ms O'Neill said regulations are not being enforced.

"It's very concerning that the same towns are popping up again and again as having poor air quality," she said.

"I think the regulations - passed by the Government in October of last year - are not being vigorously implemented and enforced, perhaps, by local authorities.

"It's only by ensuring that we don't allow the burning and the sale of smokey fuels that we can actually improve air quality in those places."

Geographical factors

Ms O'Neill said this could be down to geographical reasons.

"Certainly we know that in some counties there's still a strong attachment to burning peat; that might be the case in the Midlands," she said.

"Increasingly we're seeing people burning wood which may be damp, and therefore contributing to particulate matter in wood-burning stoves under the illusion, I think, that these are a clean fuel.

"In fact wood is very much part of the problem.

"It's only if you have very dry timber and secondary combustion in your stove that you can be assured of not releasing pollution into the atmosphere".

She explained that tiny particles of dust which we cannot see are absorbed into the the body, and this can be serious for certain vulnerable cohorts.

"It may be that the problem is confined to certain towns for various geographical reasons," she said.

"I think we need urgent action on this, because we can't just allow these regulations to be unenforced and unimplimented," she added.

'Improvements next winter'

[Environment Minister Eamon Ryan said](#) things should be different by next year.

"A lot of those will start to be weaned off - old stocks, some people burning turf - that's coming to an end," he said.

"The new law is in place where those smokey fuels are not permitted.

"The key thing now is for local authorities to enforce the law.

"We'll see that air quality improve, slowly but surely, as that enforcement kicks in.

"We always recognised it would take some months, probably one winter season, to use up any old stocks.

"We will see improvements next winter - those sort of figures we don't expect to see again."

He said local authorities "have to up their game... being really rigorous in enforcing the law."

Listen back to the full interview here:

Main image: Split screen image shows an aerial view of Ennis in Co Clare, and pollution coming from a chimney

European Union

Georgia or Ossetia OR Azerbaijan (disputed land, occupied by wood-burning Azerbaijanis)

[Nagorno-Karabakh enters third month of blockade - OC Media](#)

OC Media

'Stepanakert is completely covered in **smoke**; they are cutting **wood** with chainsaws in the courtyards of buildings, **burning wood** for heating and ...

Nagorno-Karabakh enters third month of blockade

A group of men sit around a fire near the police checkpoint outside Stepanakert.

Reports of energy shortages are continuing to grow in Nagorno-Karabakh, as the region enters its third month under blockade.

The blockade started in December when a group of Azerbaijanis claiming to be eco-activists blocked the Lachin Corridor purportedly to protest illegal mining in Nagorno-Karabakh. The corridor is the only passage in and out of Nagorno-Karabakh for its 120,000 inhabitants.

[Read more: [Nagorno-Karabakh introduces rationing and blackouts as blockade continues](#)]

'The city looks like a village'

Since the blockade started, Nagorno-Karabakh's gas supply from Armenia has been cut off seven times. Both Yerevan and Stepanakert have accused Azerbaijan of cutting the region off, as all gas pipes pass through Azerbaijan-controlled territories.

'There is almost no traffic in the city. The city looks like a village: silence and **smoke from stoves**,' Marut Vanyan told *OC Media*.

said people had 'involuntarily' adapted to the new reality by relying on wood stoves for heating.

'Stepanakert is completely covered in smoke; they are cutting wood with chainsaws in the courtyards of buildings, burning wood for heating and cooking. It is also expensive for ordinary people, but there is no alternative.'

Due to energy shortages, educational institutions have partly closed, while some have adjusted to use woodstoves for heating.

The region has also been forced to introduce rolling blackouts; with hour-long power cuts six times a day.

For ease of reading, we choose not to use qualifiers such as 'de facto', 'unrecognised', or 'partially recognised' when discussing institutions or political positions within Abkhazia, Nagorno-Karabakh, and South Ossetia. This does not imply a position on their status.

Episode 52d Ukraine

[Hour by hour in a battered town on Ukraine's front line - RFI](#)

RFI

With no fire brigade, the blaze will just have to burn itself out, ... caused by fumes from a poorly ventilated **wood-burning** stove, says one.

[Hour by hour in a battered town on Ukraine's front line - France 24](#)

France 24

Thick grey smoke billows from a stairwell window and the flames crackle ... caused by fumes from a poorly ventilated **wood-burning** stove, says one.

Africa

Asia

India

['Filtering outdoor air is like putting an AC in a room without a roof' | Mumbai News](#)

Times of India

Chinese scientists claimed the tower reduced **PM 2.5** levels by 15% on severe pollution days, and improves air quality within 10 sq km.

India

[Select CITYWALK becomes India's first shopping center to install AQS for purified indoor air](#)

Devdiscourse

The installed system will improve IAQ by reducing concentration of VOCs, PM10, **PM 2.5**, SO_x, Nox and O₃. Speaking on the initiative, ...

[Black carbon aerosols over Indian Ocean have unique source fingerprint and optical ... - PNAS](#)

PNAS

Aerosol filter samples (**PM2.5: Particulate Matter** < 2.5 μm aerodynamic diameter) were collected at the top of the observatory tower (15 m height). For ...

India, Bangalore

[Fuming city - Bangalore Mirror](#)

Bangalore Mirror

Moreover, the highest concentration of the particulate matter (68.64 ... Size wise PM 1 can be more easily respirable than **PM 2.5** and PM 10.

India, Ludhiana

[Ludhiana MC plans to set up plant to improve air pollution - Tribune India](#)

Tribune India

Officials said there was a proposal to set up a plant for the mitigation of air pollution by reducing levels of Particulate Matter (**PM**) **2.5** and PM ...

India, Maharashtra

[Three CAAQMS in city still not providing air quality data even after over a year](#)

The Hitavada

In Maharashtra, 18 cities, including Nagpur, are under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), where air quality levels of **PM 2.5** and PM 10 have ...

India, Mumbai

[Mumbai's pollution: A huge health epidemic](#)

Citizen Matters, Mumbai

Mumbai's **PM 2.5** deteriorated by 40% as compared to 2019. ... found that more than 70% of particulate matter pollution is coming from road dust, ...

[Mumbai Pollution Update: City air quality 'poor' with AQI 200; mercury at 19.6°C](#)

Free Press Journal

As of Tuesday morning, Mumbai's AQI was 'poor' at 200; meanwhile, the pollutant **PM 2.5** and PM 10 concentrations were at 200 and 138 respectively.

Taiwan

[Hiking group faces legal woes after building campfire in Taiwan forest | 2023-02-13 19:47:00](#)

Taiwan News

... arrived at the scene at around noon and found **smoke** coming out of a pile of **burning wood** and a number of cooking utensils on the ground.

Thailand

[10 Pick-Up Lines You Can Only Use In Thailand Right Now - AugustMan Singapore](#)

AugustMan Singapore

By Lisa Gries, Feb 14 2023 9:44 pm. Valentine's Day or not, ... I'd work harder than the air purifier in February when **PM 2.5** is in the air.

[10 pick-up lines you can only use in Thailand, inspired by recent events](#)

Lifestyle Asia Hong Kong

I'd work harder than the air purifier in February when **PM 2.5** is in the air. 4. Let's run away together and just completely disappear, ...