

## Where is the nonattainment area?

Fine particle pollution levels recorded at the monitor located at South L Street in Tacoma violate national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). When an area's monitored air pollution exceeds the NAAQS for a specified number of times, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designates it as a nonattainment area, meaning it fails to meet the federal standard.

The map below outlines the boundary for the Tacoma-Pierce County nonattainment area.

### How was this boundary determined?

The federal Clean Air Act requires that a nonattainment area include not only the area that is violating the federal pollution standard, but also nearby areas that contribute to the violation. Criteria that factored into determining the boundaries for the nonattainment area include: air quality data, emissions information, population density, traffic and commuting

patterns, expected growth, weather, topography, jurisdictional boundaries, and control of emissions.

With these considerations in mind, the final boundary was set around most of Pierce County's urban growth area, with the following exceptions:

- The nonattainment area does not include less populated areas of Pierce County such as DuPont and Joint Base Lewis McChord.
- The nonattainment area also excludes the far eastern peninsula of Pierce County, east of the Puyallup River and White River Valley. While these areas do create fine particle pollution, and occasionally also experience high levels of fine particle pollution, topography and typical weather patterns make it unlikely that pollution from this area affects air quality around the neighborhoods experiencing the worst pollution

