



# Particulate Matter

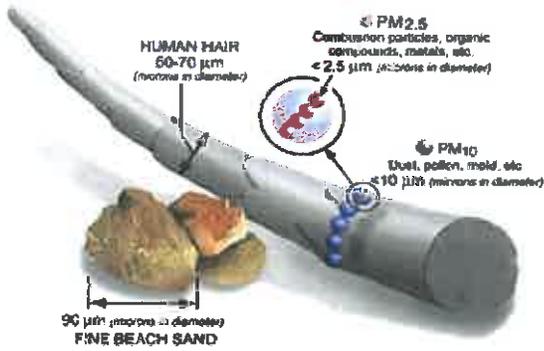


Photo Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



06-0007-11



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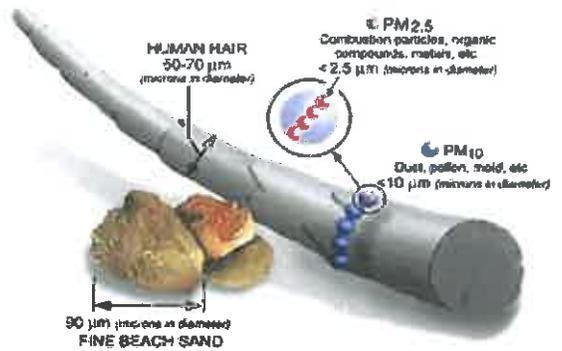


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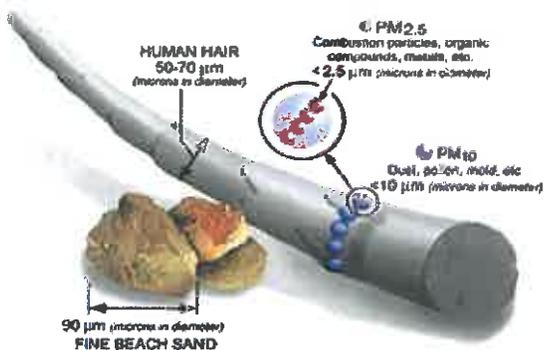


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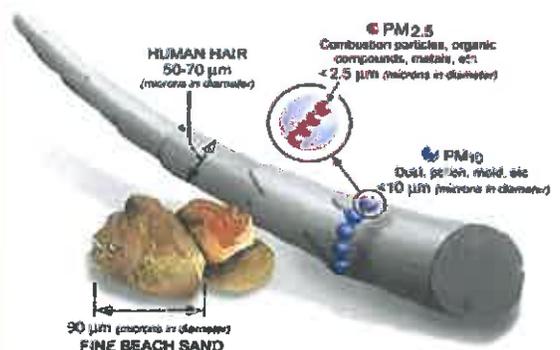


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## Particulate Matter

Particulate matter is the term given to the tiny particles of solid or semi-solid material suspended in the air. There are separate EPA health standards for particulate matter of two different sizes. The PM10 standard is for particles that are ten microns or less in diameter. The PM2.5 standard addresses smaller particles – those less than 2.5 microns.

The larger particles include dust from unpaved roads, construction, or “re-entrained dust” such as road sand that is kicked up into the air by the movement of vehicles.

The smaller particles tend to come from fuel combustion, especially diesel exhaust, and can more easily be inhaled deeper into the lungs.



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