

**Summary of Reasons Supporting the Revision to the Alabama State
Implementation Plan
(Birmingham 2006 24-Hour PM_{2.5} Limited Maintenance Plan)**

The proposed revisions to the Alabama SIP concerns an update to the initial 10 year maintenance plan for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for the Birmingham Area as required by Section 175 of the Clean Air Act. The Birmingham area, located in central Alabama, is geographically comprised of two full counties, Jefferson and Shelby, and one partial county, Walker. On November 13, 2009, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated Birmingham as nonattainment for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS. Based on monitoring data from 2007-2009 showing compliance with the standard of 35 µg/m³, ADEM submitted a redesignation request, and maintenance plan to EPA requesting that the Birmingham area be redesignated to attainment. As a result, on January 25, 2013, the Birmingham area was redesignated to attainment/maintenance for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS. Under section 175A(b), 8 years after the redesignation of an area to attainment, and after the submittal of the initial 10 year maintenance plan, states are required to submit an additional revision to their SIPs which provide a plan for maintaining the NAAQS for 10 years after the expiration of the initial 10 year maintenance plan. These revisions to the Alabama SIP are intended to satisfy that requirement.