

Tinier they are, deeper they go

A CLAIM

"...(the) threshold for the onset of the health effects has not yet been detected for particulate emissions. This means that the safe levels have not yet been identified which is totally different from stating (as EPCA has done) that there is no safe level of particulate pollution."

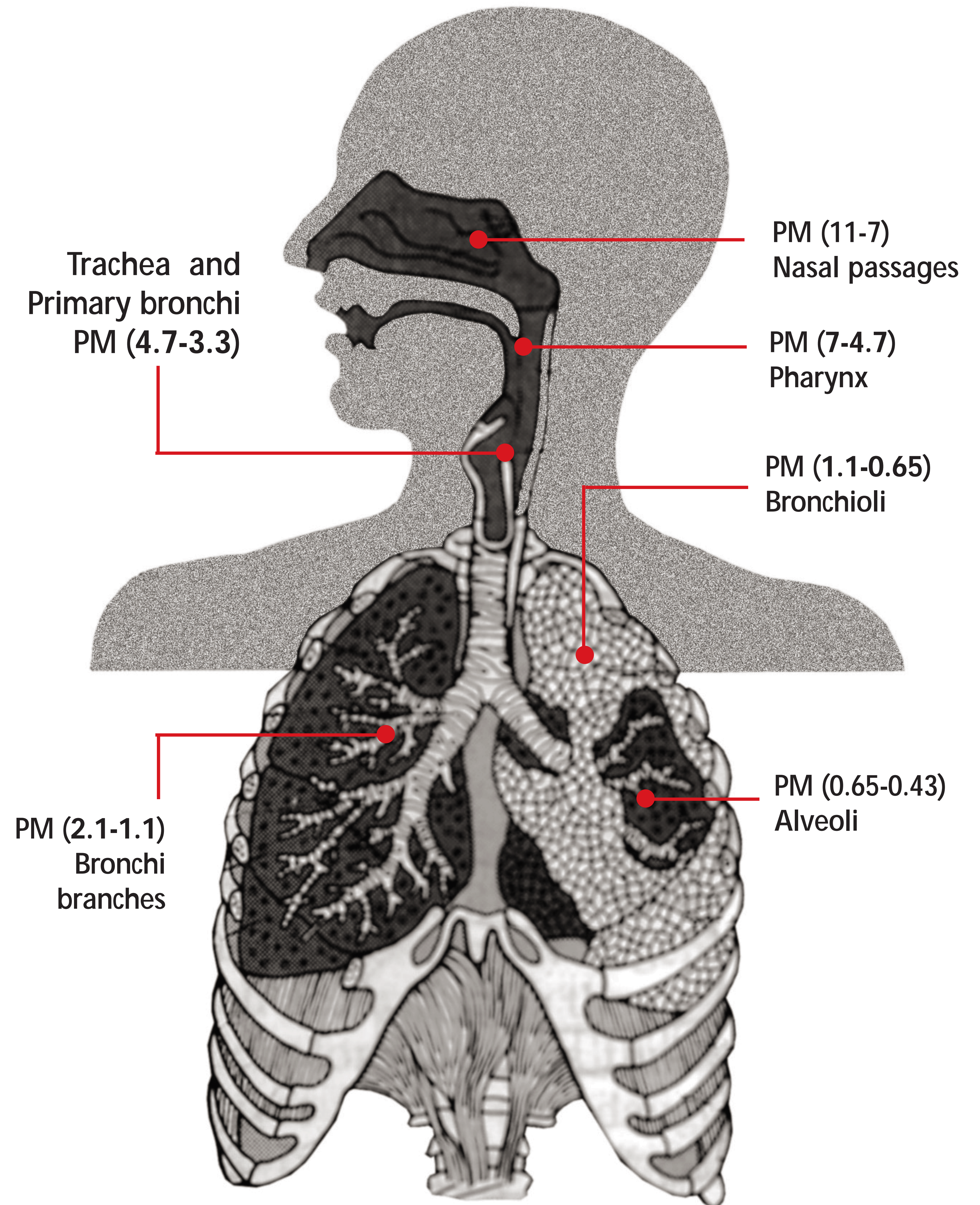
—Major automobile manufacturer, Supreme Court affidavit, October 99

THE REBUTTAL

"This interpretation is certainly not correct. What we are saying is that effects occur at any concentration. There is no threshold for the onset of the effects meaning that for each concentration of particulate matter, there are already observed effects, starting from the lowest concentration of about 10 microgrammes per cubic metre and going to 150-200 microgrammes per cubic metre."

— Dietrich Schwela, WHO Expert, October 99

How far tiny particles penetrate your lungs



Note: Size of particulate matter (PM) in microns. Particles larger than 11 microns do not penetrate