

regional scale applications was supported by some commenters who understood that these models were no longer state-of-the-science. Those who objected to removal of UAM-IV were concerned that the Models-3/CMAQ (Community Multi-scale Air Quality) model, as a replacement for UAM-IV, was not sufficiently tested. In fact, Models-3/CMAQ is identified as only one option among currently available models that are appropriate in simulating the highly complex ozone/PM-2.5 formation and transport processes. It is the responsibility of the appropriate control agency(ies) with jurisdiction for the model application to exercise discretion in the choice of models. Alternately, criteria for using models not in appendix A are clearly delineated in revised wording that we proposed for subsection 3.2.2 of appendix W. These options should more than mitigate concerns expressed by the commenters.

We generally agree that Models-3/CMAQ and REMSAD will continue to benefit from further evaluation and testing for use in urban/regional scale assessments of ozone and PM-2.5, and are not the only models available for these applications. The same is true of all similar regional scale models. However, CMAQ and REMSAD have been successfully subjected to peer scientific reviews and are currently undergoing performance evaluations that will extend over several years as data bases become more extensive and complete for both ozone and PM-2.5.

While comment was solicited on the need to integrate ozone and fine particle impacts (*i.e.*, the "one atmosphere" approach) for regional scale assessments, we did not receive substantial comment. Comments on integrating analyses were supportive and comments on source-specific analyses indicated that more work was needed in this area. It is clear that further developmental efforts on estimating the impact of individual sources is necessary before specific modeling requirements are identified for such applications.

Comments³ were generally supportive of our proposal to remove appendix B (Summaries of Alternative Air Quality Models) from appendix W and maintaining it as a PDF file on our SCRAM Internet Web site. As we stated in the preamble to the notice of proposed rulemaking for this action, appendix B of the *Guideline* was created solely for the convenience of those seeking information about alternatives to the models adopted in appendix A. The models described in appendix B may or may not have not been the

subject of performance evaluations and their inclusion in appendix B does not confer special status or EPA sanction on their use. Conversely, the fact that a model has not been listed in appendix B carries no implication that its performance or acceptability for use is any poorer than appendix B listed models. Whether or not a model is listed, potential users will be subject to the same requirements, *i.e.*, to demonstrate that the model performs acceptably for its intended regulatory application. Because production and maintenance of appendix B information in the Code of Federal Regulations presents a substantial administrative burden for EPA and is not updated frequently enough to provide current information to potential users, we are moving the appendix B repository of alternative model summary descriptions to our Internet SCRAM Web site. This action offers the advantages of easier and less expensive maintenance, as well as more frequent updating, and is thus more likely to contain a comprehensive description of alternative models which have been brought to our attention. Similarly, the air quality checklist (formerly appendix C of the *Guideline*) will be available on the Web site as a PDF file.

The appendix B listing will therefore now appear as a list of *Alternative Models* (PDF file) on our Web site. We have clarified in its *Introduction and Availability* section that new models added to the list were/are not necessarily the subject of review upon their addition. On the other hand, it should be noted that the models identified in our proposal (*i.e.*, ADMS, SCIPUFF, OBODM, and CAMx) were included in the review process for today's action concerning the list of alternative models. At the request of the developer, we will remove MESOPUFF from appendix B since its function is replaced by CALPUFF.

Comments on the dispersion model ADMS argued that proprietary limitations on the availability of ADMS should not preclude it from having equal status with other Appendix A models and that it should be recommended in appendix A. However, as specified by *Guideline* paragraph 3.1.1(c)(vi), air quality models used in U.S. regulatory programs must be in the public domain at reasonable cost. This is because the source code needs to be open for public access and scrutiny to enable meaningful opportunity for public comment on new source permits, PSD increment consumption and SIPs. These criteria have been in place in U.S. regulatory programs since the inception of the *Guideline* and are needed to meet

EPA's obligations under the CAA and the Administrative Procedure Act. Until the joint issues of availability (source code) and cost are addressed by the authors of ADMS, it is most appropriately listed as an alternative model for use on a case-by-case basis. Even if the model is justified on a case-by-case basis, users are responsible for making the model available for public review and comment for specific applications.

A similar comment regarding the puff model SCIPUFF did not consider that the model has not gone through the same extensive testing and regulatory evaluation as has CALPUFF, nor has it been as widely used as CALPUFF for regulatory applications. As has been done by CALPUFF's developers, a commitment to support public availability of SCIPUFF would have to be made by its supporter before it could be considered for adoption in appendix A.

Developers of neither ADMS nor SCIPUFF have addressed conflicts associated with multiple models for the same application in such a way as to assist EPA in resolving this issue. Moreover, we believe that neither ADMS nor SCIPUFF technically fill a particular technical need that is different from that occupied by the suite of refined dispersion models that EPA has promulgated for regulatory purposes after public review and comment.

Based on public comments and the rationale provided in our notice of proposed rulemaking, our decision to reference the ozone limiting method (OLM) and CAL3QHC for use in specific circumstances is justified.

Meteorological Data Issues

In our proposal we solicited comment on terminology and meaning of "site-specific" data and on use of surface meteorological data derived from the NWS's Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS). More specifically, we invited comment on whether the policy of modeling with the most recent 5 years of NWS meteorological data should include ASOS data and whether the period of record must be the most recent 5 years, regardless of whether it contains ASOS data.

No one provided negative comments on the use of the term "site-specific" or associated definitions as used in the proposed revisions. Thus, for the reasons discussed in the proposal, we will retain this terminology.

The majority of commenters who addressed the topic of ASOS data felt that the ASOS data were inferior for use with Gaussian models, though not all commenters agreed. With respect to the