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2. *By Mail.* Send your comments to: Air and Radiation Docket, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode: 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC, 20460, Attention Docket ID No. A-91-08.

3. *By Hand Delivery or Courier.* Deliver your comments to: Air and Radiation Docket, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (West), 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Room B-102, Washington, DC, 20004, Attention Docket ID No. A-91-08. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation as identified in Section I.A.1.

## II. Outline

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## I. Introduction

### A. Regulatory History of the Proposed Rule

Procedure 3, Quality Assurance (QA) Requirements for Continuous Opacity Monitoring Systems at Stationary Sources, was originally published in the **Federal Register** on October 7, 1992 (57 FR 46114) as Method 203. At that time, it was proposed as an addition to appendix M, Example Test Methods for State implementation plans (SIP's), in 40 CFR part 51. Concurrently, work was underway to update and revise Performance Specification 1 (PS-1), Performance Specifications for a Continuous Opacity Monitoring System

(COMS). It was decided to postpone further work on Method 203 until the revisions to PS-1 were promulgated. Revisions to PS-1 were published in the **Federal Register** on November 25, 1994 (59 FR 60585). Comments on the November 1994 proposal revealed some concern and confusion with the design specifications and with the test procedures to verify compliance with the design specifications. To ensure adequate understanding of the technical issues uncovered in the comments, a public stakeholders' meeting was held on June 12, 1996. As a result of that meeting, representatives from the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D22.03, a Subcommittee on Ambient Atmospheres and Source Emissions, volunteered to undertake development of a standard practice for opacity monitor manufacturers.

On September 23, 1998, we published a supplemental proposal in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 50824) to incorporate ASTM D 6216-98 by reference into the proposed revisions to PS-1. After addressing the comments from the supplemental proposal, we published PS-1 as a final rule in the **Federal Register** on August 10, 2000 (65 FR 48914).

Following the promulgation of PS-1, we formed a stakeholders' group to address technical concerns, similar to the concerns revealed in PS-1, with Method 203 as it was originally proposed. The stakeholders' group was open to the public and consisted of opacity monitor manufacturers, representatives from the ASTM D22.03 subcommittee, State/local, and regional office personnel. After holding a series of phone conferences, we decided to re-write and re-propose Method 203. The re-write takes into account technological advances in the design and manufacture of opacity monitors, as well as the revisions to PS-1. We decided to re-propose the method as an additional procedure, Procedure 3, to be added to 40 CFR part 60, appendix F, Quality Assurance Procedures for Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems. Today's proposal provides you the opportunity to comment on the changes made to Method 203 (Procedure 3) since its original proposal in October 1992, including the codification of Procedure 3 in the aforementioned appendix. Comments are not limited to the changes contained in this proposal; you may comment on Procedure 3 in its entirety. It is for this reason we are allowing a 60-day comment period.

## II. Differences Between Proposed Method 203 and the Proposed Rule (Procedure 3)

### A. Quarterly Performance Audit

In re-writing Method 203 we determined that, because of technological advancements in opacity monitors, requirements proposed in October 1992 were no longer necessary. Specifically, regarding the quarterly performance audits, we decided to delete the optical surface dust accumulation check, the stack exit correlation error (pathlength correction factor) check, as well as the zero and upscale response checks.

The design specifications outlined in ASTM D 6216-98, incorporated by reference into PS-1, requires manufacturers to build opacity monitors capable of adjusting the reading due to the accumulation of dust on exposed optical surfaces. Opacity monitors are also required to display the level of dust accumulation. We also determined it to be in the source's best interest to be aware of dust accumulation on a regular basis, since the result of dust accumulation would lead to higher opacity readings.

The stack exit correlation error (pathlength correction factor [PLCF]) was deleted because opacity monitor manufacturers are required to certify the system has been built so that the PLCF either cannot be changed, is recorded during each calibration cycle, or an alarm sounds when the value is changed from the certified value.

The quarterly zero and upscale response checks were deleted because the calibration drift checks (zero and upscale) are required on a daily basis. We determined that requiring zero and upscale response checks in addition to the calibration drift checks offered no additional benefits in verifying the performance of the COMS.

### B. Corrective Action Section

Procedure 3 includes a new section describing the corrective action required to return an opacity monitor to normal operation after a specified maintenance or repair procedure has been executed in response to a monitor failure or pending failure. After successful completion of the applicable corrective action, the monitor can be returned to an on-line status which provides valid emission monitoring data as long as the on-going QA requirements are met.

The corrective action section establishes four classes of maintenance and repair procedures: (1) Routine/preventative maintenance, (2) Measurement non-critical repairs, (3) Measurement critical repairs, and (4)