

and responsibilities established in the Clean Air Act. This proposed rule also is not subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997), because it is not economically significant.

In reviewing SIP submissions, EPA's role is to approve state choices, provided that they meet the criteria of the Clean Air Act. In this context, in the absence of a prior existing requirement for the State to use voluntary consensus standards (VCS), EPA has no authority to disapprove a SIP submission for failure to use VCS. It would thus be inconsistent with applicable law for EPA, when it reviews a SIP submission, to use VCS in place of a SIP submission that otherwise satisfies the provisions of the Clean Air Act. Thus, the requirements of section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) do not apply. This proposed rule does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Intergovernmental relations, Particulate matter, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Dated: January 9, 2003

Wayne Nastri,

Regional Administrator, Region IX.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[OH118-1b; FRL-7428-4]

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Ohio

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The EPA is proposing to approve, as a revision to the Ohio State Implementation Plan (SIP), the remaining portions of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (OEPA) regulations for Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) provisions for attainment areas. EPA had previously conditionally approved Ohio's prior SIP submission on October 10, 2001. Today's proposed final approval of changes in the plan

correcting minor deficiencies cited in EPA's original conditional approval, is based on Ohio's July 18, 2002, submission of revisions to the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). In its July 2002 submittal, Ohio also made additional revisions to the OAC that were not addressed in EPA's October 10, 2001 conditional approval.

Recently, EPA announced new regulations regarding changes to the preconstruction permit program under EPA's efforts regarding "New Source Review Reform." Today's approval of Ohio's SIP submission does not address EPA's new rules but is limited to portions of Ohio's preconstruction permit program under the existing rules. EPA is taking no position today on whether Ohio will need to make changes to its SIP to meet any requirements that EPA may promulgate as part of New Source Review Reform.

In the "Rules and Regulations" section of this **Federal Register**, EPA is approving the State's request as a direct final rule without prior proposal because EPA views this action as noncontroversial and anticipates no adverse comments. The rationale for approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If EPA receives no written adverse comments, EPA will take no further action on this proposed rule. If EPA receives written adverse comment, we will publish a timely withdrawal of the direct final rule in the **Federal Register** and inform the public that the rule will not take effect. In that event, EPA will address all relevant public comments in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. In either event, EPA will not institute a second comment period on this action. Any parties interested in commenting must do so at this time.

DATES: Comments on this action must be received by February 21, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the documents relevant to this action are available for inspection during normal business hours at the following location: Permits and Grants Section, Air Programs Branch, (AR-18J), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

Please contact Genevieve Damico at (312) 353-4761 before visiting the Region 5 office.

Written comments should be sent to: Pamela Blakley, Chief, Permits and Grants Section, Air Programs Branch, (AR-18J), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Genevieve Damico, Environmental Engineer, Permits and Grants Section, Air Programs Branch, (AR-18J), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, (312) 353-4761.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Throughout this document whenever "we," "us," or "our" are used we mean the EPA.

I. What action is EPA taking today?

II. Where can I find more information about this proposal and corresponding direct final rule?

I. What Action Is EPA Taking Today?

The EPA is proposing to approve, as a revision to the SIP, the remaining portions of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (OEPA) PSD provisions for attainment areas. EPA had previously conditionally approved Ohio's prior SIP submission on October 10, 2001 (66 FR 51570). Today's proposed final approval of EPA's original conditional approval is based on Ohio's July 18, 2002, submission of the revisions to the OAC. In its July 2002 submittal, Ohio also made additional revisions to OAC 3745-31-01, -02, -03, -05, and -07 that were not addressed in EPA's October 10, 2001 conditional approval.

Recently, EPA announced new regulations regarding changes to the preconstruction permit program under EPA's efforts regarding "New Source Review Reform". See <http://www.epa.gov/nsr/>. Today's approval of Ohio's SIP submission does not address EPA's new rules but is limited to portions of Ohio's preconstruction permit program under the existing rules. EPA is taking no position today on whether Ohio will need to make changes to its SIP to meet any requirements that EPA may promulgate as part of New Source Review Reform.

II. Where Can I Find More Information About This Proposal and Corresponding Direct Final Rule?

For additional information see the direct final rule published in the rules and regulations section of this **Federal Register**.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4201 *et seq.*

Dated: December 13, 2002.

Bharat Mathur,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 5.

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