

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 51

[FRL-7522-6]

Revisions to the Regional Haze Rule To Correct Mobile Source Provisions in Optional Program for Nine Western States and Eligible Indian Tribes Within That Geographic Area

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The EPA is proposing to approve a correction to the mobile source provisions in the EPA's regional haze rule. This correction is consistent with recommendations of the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP). The amendments to the rule are intended to address an emissions projection scenario for mobile sources which was not addressed when EPA published the regional haze rule in 1999.

DATES: Comments on this proposal must be received by August 4, 2003.

In the "Final Rules" section of today's **Federal Register**, we are publishing a direct final rule that matches the substance of this proposed rule. If the Agency receives adverse comment or a request for public hearing by August 4, 2003, we will withdraw the direct final rule by publishing a timely withdrawal notice in the **Federal Register**. If the Agency receives no adverse comments to this proposed rule, the direct final rule is effective September 2, 2003.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be submitted to Docket No. OAR-2002-0076. When mailing documents, comments, or requests to the EPA Docket Center through the U.S. Postal Service, please use the following address: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA West (Air Docket), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Room B108; Mail Code: 6102T, Washington, DC 20460. To mail comments or documents through a courier service, the mailing address is: EPA Docket Center (Air Docket), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room B108; Mail Code: 6102T, Washington, DC 20004. The normal business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding legal holidays. Comments can be submitted to the address above, by fax (202) 566-1741, or by e-mail to A-and-R-Docket@epa.gov. The voice telephone number is (202) 566-1742.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you would like further information about this proposed rule or to request a

public hearing, contact Kathy Kaufman, Integrated Policies and Strategies Group, (919) 541-0102 or by e-mail kaufman.kathy@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulated Entities

Entities potentially regulated by this action are nine States in the Western United States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming) and Indian Tribes within that same geographic area. This proposed action, and an earlier action taken by EPA in 1999, provides these States and Tribes with an optional program to protect visibility in federally protected scenic areas. The portion of the program addressed by this proposed rule is a program for tracking of mobile source emissions under the 1999 rule.

Docket. The EPA has established an official public docket for this action under Docket No. OAR-2002-0076. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to this action. Although a part of the official docket, the public docket does not include confidential business information or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the Air Docket in the EPA Docket Center, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Air Docket is (202) 566-1742. A reasonable fee may be charged for copying.

Electronic Access. You may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the EPA Internet under the "Federal Register" listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>. An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified above. Once in the system,

select "search," then key in the docket identification number OAR-2002-0076.

Outline. The contents of today's preamble are listed in the following outline.

- I. Background
 - A. What is the regional haze rule?
 - B. What are the special provisions for Western States and eligible Indian Tribes in 40 CFR 51.309 of the regional haze rule?
- II. Changes to the Mobile Source Provisions of Section 309
 - A. Why are we changing the mobile source provisions of 40 CFR 51.309?
 - B. What are the specific changes to the mobile source provisions of 40 CFR 51.309?
- III. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews
 - A. Executive Order 12866: Regulatory Planning and Review
 - B. Paperwork Reduction Act
 - C. Regulatory Flexibility Act
 - D. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act
 - E. Executive Order 13132: Federalism
 - F. Executive Order 13175: Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments
 - G. Executive Order 13045: Protection of Children from Environmental Health and Safety Risks
 - H. Executive Order 13211: Actions that Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution or Use
 - I. National Technology Transfer Advancement Act
 - J. Executive Order 12898: Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations
- IV. Statutory Provisions and Legal Authority

I. Background

A. What Is the Regional Haze Rule?

Section 169(A) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) establishes a national goal for protecting visibility in federally-protected scenic areas. These "Class I" areas include national parks and wilderness areas. The national visibility goal is to remedy existing impairment and prevent future impairment in these Class I areas, consistent with the requirements of sections 169A and 169B of the CAA.

Regional haze is a type of visibility impairment caused by air pollutants emitted by numerous sources across a broad region. The EPA uses the term regional haze to distinguish this type of visibility problem from those which are more local in nature. In 1999, EPA issued a regional haze rule requiring States to develop implementation plans that will make "reasonable progress" toward the national visibility goal (64 FR 35714, July 1, 1999). The first State plans for regional haze are due between 2003 and 2008. The regional haze rule provisions appear at 40 CFR 51.308 and 40 CFR 51.309.