

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 CAA. 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 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Carbon monoxide, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Lead, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Particulate matter, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Sulfur oxides, Volatile organic compounds.

Dated: January 13, 2003.

James Gulliford,

Regional Administrator, Region 7.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Parts 52 and 81

[MO 170-1170; IL 216-1; FRL-7444-5]

Determination of Attainment, Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans, and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; States of Missouri and Illinois

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is proposing to determine that the St. Louis ozone nonattainment area (St. Louis area) has attained the 1-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). This proposal is based on three years of complete, quality-assured ambient air quality monitoring data for the 2000 through 2002 ozone seasons that demonstrate that the 1-hour ozone NAAQS has been attained in the area. On the basis of this proposal, EPA is also proposing to determine that certain attainment demonstration requirements along with certain other related requirements of part D of Title I of the Clean Air Act (CAA) are not applicable to the St. Louis area.

The EPA is also proposing to approve an exemption from certain nitrogen

oxides (NO_x) requirements as provided for in section 182(f) for the Illinois portion of the St. Louis area. Section 182(f) establishes NO_x requirements for ozone nonattainment areas. However, it provides that these requirements do not apply to an area if the Administrator determines that NO_x reductions would not contribute to attainment. Because the St. Louis area is currently attaining the ozone NAAQS, EPA is proposing to grant the Illinois portion of the St. Louis area an NO_x exemption from NO_x reasonably available control technology (RACT) requirements. If final action is taken, the Illinois portion of the St. Louis area would no longer be subject to these NO_x emission control requirements. However, all emission controls previously adopted by the state must continue to be implemented.

EPA is also proposing to approve requests from the States of Missouri and Illinois, submitted on December 6, 2002, and December 30, 2002, respectively, to redesignate the St. Louis area to attainment of the 1-hour ozone NAAQS. In proposing to approve these requests EPA is also proposing to approve the states' plans for maintaining the 1-hour ozone NAAQS through 2014, as revisions to the Missouri and Illinois State Implementation Plans (SIPs). EPA is also proposing to find adequate and approve the states' 2014 Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets (MVEBs) for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxide compounds (NO_x) in the submitted maintenance plans for transportation conformity purposes.

The St. Louis nonattainment area is located in portions of Illinois and Missouri. The Illinois portion of the nonattainment area includes Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair Counties (collectively referred to as the Metro-East area). The Missouri portion of the nonattainment area includes Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles, and St. Louis Counties and St. Louis City.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before March 3, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be mailed to Joshua Tapp, Chief, Air Planning and Development Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7, 901 North 5th Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66101; or, J. Elmer Bortzer, Chief, Regulation Development Section, Air Programs Branch (ART-18J), Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

Relevant documents are available for inspection during normal business hours at the above-listed Region 7 and Region 5 locations. Interested persons wanting to examine these documents

should make an appointment with the appropriate office at least 24 hours in advance.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tony Petruska, Region 7, (913) 551-7637, (petruska.anthony@epa.gov) or Edward Doty, Region 5, (312) 886-6057, (doty.edward@epa.gov).

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