

to authorize the changes without a prior proposal because we believe this action is not controversial and do not expect comments that oppose it. Unless we get written comments which oppose this authorization during the comment period, the decision to authorize South Carolina's changes to their hazardous waste program will take effect. If we get comments that oppose this action, we will publish a document in the **Federal Register** withdrawing this rule before it takes effect and a separate document in the proposed rules section of this **Federal Register** will serve as a proposal to authorize the changes.

DATES: This Final authorization will become effective on November 3, 2003, unless EPA receives adverse written comment by October 2, 2003. If EPA receives such comment, it will publish a timely withdrawal of this immediate final rule in the **Federal Register** and inform the public that this authorization will not take effect.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Narindar Kumar, Chief, RCRA Programs Branch, Waste Management Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Atlanta Federal Center, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, GA, 30303-3104; (404) 562-8448. You can view and copy South Carolina's applications from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the following addresses: South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, (803) 896-4174; and EPA Region 4, Atlanta Federal Center, Library, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303; (404) 562-8190.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Narindar Kumar, Chief, RCRA Programs Branch, Waste Management Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Atlanta Federal Center, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, GA, 30303-3104; (404) 562-8448.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Why Are Revisions to State Programs Necessary?

States which have received final authorization from EPA under RCRA section 3006(b), 42 U.S.C. 6926(b), must maintain a hazardous waste program that is equivalent to, consistent with, and no less stringent than the Federal program. As the Federal program changes, States must change their programs and ask EPA to authorize the changes. Changes to State programs may be necessary when Federal or State statutory or regulatory authority is modified or when certain other changes occur. Most commonly, States must change their programs because of changes to EPA's regulations in 40 Code

of Federal Regulations (CFR) parts 124, 260 through 266, 268, 270, 273 and 279.

B. What Decisions Have We Made in This Rule?

We conclude that South Carolina's applications to revise its authorized program meets all of the statutory and regulatory requirements established by RCRA. Therefore, we grant South Carolina Final authorization to operate its hazardous waste program with the changes described in the authorization applications. South Carolina has responsibility for permitting Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (TSDFs) within its borders (except in Indian Country) and for carrying out the aspects of the RCRA program described in its revised program application, subject to the limitations of the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 (HSWA). New Federal requirements and prohibitions imposed by Federal regulations that EPA promulgates under the authority of HSWA take effect in authorized States before they are authorized for the requirements. Thus, EPA will implement those requirements and prohibitions in South Carolina, including issuing permits, until the State is granted authorization to do so.

C. What Is the Effect of Today's Authorization Decision?

The effect of this decision is that a facility in South Carolina subject to RCRA will now have to comply with the authorized State requirements instead of the equivalent Federal requirements in order to comply with RCRA. South Carolina has enforcement responsibilities under its State hazardous waste program for violations of such program, but EPA retains its authority under RCRA sections 3007, 3008, 3013, and 7003, which include, among others, authority to:

- do inspections, and require monitoring, tests, analyses or reports
- enforce RCRA requirements and suspend or revoke permits
- take enforcement actions regardless of whether the State has taken its own actions

This action does not impose additional requirements on the regulated community because the regulations for which South Carolina is being authorized by today's action are already effective, and are not changed by today's action.

D. Why Wasn't There a Proposed Rule Before Today's Rule?

EPA did not publish a proposal before today's rule because we view this as a routine program change and do not

expect comments that oppose this approval. We are providing an opportunity for public comment now. In addition to this rule, in the proposed rules section of today's **Federal Register** we are publishing a separate document that proposes to authorize the State program changes.

E. What Happens if EPA Receives Comments That Oppose This Action?

If EPA receives comments that oppose this authorization, we will withdraw this rule by publishing a document in the **Federal Register** before the rule becomes effective. EPA will base any further decision on the authorization of the State program changes on the proposal mentioned in the previous paragraph. We will then address all public comments in a later final rule. You may not have another opportunity to comment. If you want to comment on this authorization, you must do so at this time.

If we receive comments that oppose only the authorization of a particular change to the State hazardous waste program, we will withdraw that part of this rule but the authorization of the program changes that the comments do not oppose will become effective on the date specified above. The **Federal Register** withdrawal document will specify which part of the authorization will become effective, and which part is being withdrawn.

F. What Has South Carolina Previously Been Authorized for?

South Carolina initially received Final authorization on November 8, 1985, effective November 22, 1985 (50 FR 46437) to implement the RCRA hazardous waste management program. We granted authorization for changes to their program on September 8, 1988, effective November 7, 1988 (53 FR 34758), February 10, 1993, effective April 12, 1993 (58 FR 7865), November 29, 1994, effective January 30, 1995 (59 FR 60901), April 26, 1996, effective June 25, 1996 (61 FR 18502), October 4, 2000, effective December 4, 2000 (65 FR 59135) and August 21, 2001, effective October 22, 2001 (66 FR 43798).

G. What Changes Are We Authorizing With Today's Action?

On November 15, 2000 and December 20, 2001, South Carolina submitted final complete program revision applications, seeking authorization of their changes in accordance with 40 CFR 271.21. We now make an immediate final decision, subject to receipt of written comments that oppose this action, that South Carolina's hazardous waste program revisions satisfy all of the requirements