

40 CFR Part 52

[NM22-1-7103b; FRL-5709-7]

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plan for New Mexico: General Conformity Rules**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This action proposes to approve a revision to the New Mexico State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the State of New Mexico that contains general conformity rules. Specifically, the general conformity rules, if approved, will enable the New Mexico Environment Department to review conformity of all Federal actions (See 40 CFR part 51, subpart W—Determining Conformity of General Federal Actions to State or Federal Implementation Plans) with the control strategy SIPs submitted for the nonattainment and maintenance areas within the State outside the boundaries of Bernalillo County. This proposed action would streamline the conformity process and allow direct consultation among agencies at the local levels. The Federal actions by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration (under Title 23 U.S.C. or the Federal Transit Act) are covered by the transportation conformity rules under 40 CFR part 51, subpart T—Conformity to State or Federal Implementation Plans of Transportation Plans, Programs, and Projects Developed, Funded or Approved Under Title 23 U.S.C. or the Federal Transit Act.

The EPA is proposing to approve this SIP revision under sections 110(k) and 176 of the Clean Air Act (the Act). The rationale for the proposed approval and other information are provided in the Final Rule Section of this **Federal Register**.

In the Final Rules Section of this **Federal Register**, the EPA is approving this General Conformity SIP revision as a direct final rulemaking without prior proposal because the EPA views this action as noncontroversial and anticipates no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no adverse comments are received in response to that direct final rule, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this proposed rule. If the EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. The EPA will not institute a second comment

period on this action. Any parties interested in providing comments on this action should do so at this time.

DATES: Comments on this proposed rule must be received in writing and postmarked by April 25, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the New Mexico General Conformity SIP and other relevant information are available for inspection during normal business hours at the following locations. Interested persons wanting to examine these documents should make an appointment with the appropriate office at least 24 hours before the visiting day.

Air Planning Section (6PDL),

Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202, Telephone: (214) 665-7214.

Air Quality Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502, Telephone: (505) 827-0042.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. J. Behnam, P.E.; Air Planning Section (6PDL), Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202, Telephone (214) 665-7247.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: See the information provided in the Direct Final rule which is located in the Rules Section of this **Federal Register**.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Carbon monoxide, Hydrocarbons, Intergovernmental relations, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Particulate matter, Volatile organic compounds.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q.

Dated: March 4, 1997.

Jerry Clifford,

Acting Regional Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-7689 Filed 3-25-97; 8:45 am]

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LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION**45 CFR Part 1639****Welfare Reform****AGENCY:** Legal Services Corporation.**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: Part 1639 was published on August 29, 1996, as an interim rule with a request for comments. The interim rule was intended to implement a provision in the Legal Services Corporation's ("Corporation" or "LSC")

FY 1996 appropriations act which restricts recipients from initiating legal representation or challenging or in any way participating in an effort to reform a Federal or State welfare system. Although this restriction has been retained under the Corporation's FY 1997 appropriations act, recently enacted Federal legislation has changed the status of the Federal welfare system. In light of this change in law, the Corporation requests comments on a proposed revised version of the interim rule. The interim rule remains effective, however, until a final version has been adopted and published by the Corporation.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before April 25, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted to the Office of the General Counsel, Legal Services Corporation, 750 First Street NE., 11th Floor, Washington, DC 20002-4250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Victor M. Fortuno, General Counsel (202) 336-8910.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board of Directors ("Board") of the Legal Services Corporation adopted an interim rule on July 20, 1996, for publication in the **Federal Register** with a request for comments. The interim rule was published and became effective on August 29, 1996. See 61 FR 45757. The interim rule implements § 504(a)(16) of the Corporation's FY 1996 appropriations act, Pub. L. 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321 (1996), which restricts recipients of LSC funds from initiating legal representation or participating in efforts to reform a Federal or State welfare system.

Subsequent to the adoption of the interim rule by the Board, Congress enacted and the President signed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, 110 Stat. 2105 (1996) ("Personal Responsibility Act"). The Board's Operations and Regulations Committee ("Committee") held public hearings on the interim rule on December 13, 1996, and March 7, 1997. At the March meeting, the Committee adopted proposed revisions to the definitions in the interim rule to incorporate most provisions of the Personal Responsibility Act and requested that the proposed revisions be published for public comment. For comparison purposes, the interim rule can be found at 61 FR 45757 (Aug. 29, 1996).

The version of the rule in this publication has no force of law and is submitted only as a proposed revised version of the interim rule which, if published as final, would replace the