

502, 503, 505, 506, 507, 510, 513-516, 518-520, 701, 702, 704, 721, 801, 802, and 803) and under 21 CFR 5.10, the proposed rule published in the **Federal Register** of November 27, 1995 (60 FR 58308), is withdrawn.

Dated: May 29, 1997.

William K. Hubbard,

*Associate Commissioner for Policy
Coordination.*

[FR Doc. 97-14749 Filed 6-5-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Parts 9, 122, 123, 131, and 132

[FRL-5836-4]

Final Water Quality Guidance for the Great Lakes System Draft Mercury Permitting Strategy

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability of document for public review and comment.

SUMMARY: EPA is making a draft of the Mercury Permitting Strategy ("Strategy") available for public review and comment for a 60-day period. The purpose of the Strategy is to identify how the Final Water Quality Guidance for the Great Lakes System ("Guidance") provides for implementation of mercury water quality standards though National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permits for point sources, focusing on the flexibility States or Tribes have for adjusting point source controls to account for non-point sources of mercury. The draft Strategy also addresses several permit implementation issues related to mercury data.

DATES: Written comments on this draft Strategy will be accepted until August 5, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the draft Mercury Permitting Strategy should be addressed to Debora Clovis, U.S. EPA, Permits Division (4203), 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. EPA will also accept comments electronically. Comments should include the sender's name, address, and telephone number and be sent to the following E-Mail address: clovis.debora@epamail.epa.gov. Copies of the draft Mercury Permitting Strategy are available from the following EPA Regional Offices:

Philip Sweeney—Region 2, Water Management Division, 212-637-3873; fax: 212-637-3887;

Chuck Sapp—Region 3, Water Management Division, 215-566-5725; fax: 215-566-2301;

Mary Jackson-Willis—Region 5, Water Quality Branch, 312-886-3717; fax: 312-886-7804;

Copies may also be obtained by calling Mildred Thomas at (202) 260-6054.

EPA will place this notice and the draft Strategy on the Internet for public review and downloading at the following location: www.epa.gov/owm/wm030000.htm. Users with access to computer bulletin boards may view and download the draft Strategy on PIPES, the Point Source Information Provisions and Exchange System. The bulletin board service phone number is (703) 749-9216. [Modem settings should be set at 8-N-1/; terminal emulation should be "ANSI" or "VT-100.]"

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Debora Clovis, Permits Division (4203), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460, (202) 260-9519.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 23, 1995, EPA published the Final Water Quality Guidance for the Great Lakes System ("Guidance") (60 FR 15366). As required by Section 118(c)(2) of the Clean Water Act, the Guidance establishes minimum water quality criteria, methodologies, policies, and procedures for the Great Lakes System. States and Tribes in the Great Lakes Basin are required to adopt provisions into their water quality standards and National Permit Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit programs that are consistent with the Guidance within two years after publication of the Guidance (March 23, 1997). A major purpose of the Guidance is to establish consistent, enforceable, long-term protection for fish and shellfish in the Great Lakes and their tributaries, as well as for the people and wildlife who consume them.

In developing the Guidance, EPA recognized that control of mercury releases to the environment to achieve water quality standards could be a particularly difficult challenge. Mercury is persistent, ubiquitous, and harmful to human health and the environment at relatively low levels. Mercury finds its way to the water column from point and non-point sources. Non-point sources, particularly air deposition, are considered to be the most significant remaining contributors of mercury to the Great Lakes System. For these reasons, several stakeholders in the Great Lakes Basin advocated in their comments on the proposed Guidance that any additional controls on point

source discharges of mercury effectively be suspended. In response, EPA stated that the Guidance contained appropriate flexibility to address the unique problems posed by mercury. It also committed to developing a mercury permitting strategy.

Today, EPA is making its draft Mercury Permitting Strategy ("Strategy") available for public review and comment for a 60-day period. The purpose of the Strategy is to identify how the Guidance provides for implementation of mercury water quality standards though NPDES permits for point sources, focusing on the flexibility States or Tribes have for adjusting point source controls to account for non-point sources of mercury. The draft Strategy also addresses several permit implementation issues related to mercury data.

Dated: May 29, 1997.

Robert Perciasepe,

Assistant Administrator, Office of Water.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[AZ 69-0012; FRL-5836-9]

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Arizona— Maricopa County PM-10 Nonattainment Area

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is proposing to approve in part and disapprove in part the final *Plan for Attainment of the 24-hour PM-10 Standard—Maricopa County PM-10 Nonattainment Area*, (May 1997) (plan or microscale plan) submitted by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality on May 7, 1997. The microscale plan evaluates attainment of the 24-hour particulate matter (PM-10) national ambient air quality standard at four monitoring locations in the Maricopa County (Phoenix), Arizona, PM-10 nonattainment area. EPA is proposing to approve the attainment and reasonable further progress (RFP) demonstrations for two of these sites (Salt River and Maryvale) and disapprove them for two other sites (West Chandler and Gilbert). EPA is also proposing to approve the reasonably available control measure/best available control measure (RACM/BACM) demonstrations in the