

Ohio program. Background information on the Ohio program, including the Secretary's findings, the disposition of comments, and the conditions of approval can be found in the August 10, 1982, **Federal Register** (47 FR 34688). Subsequent actions concerning conditions of approval and program amendments can be found at 30 CFR 935.11, 935.12, 935.15, and 935.16.

II. Description of the Proposed Amendment

By letter dated June 24, 1997 (Administrative Record No. OH-2173-00), Ohio submitted a proposed amendment to its program pursuant to SMCRA and in response to a required amendment at 30 CFR 935.16. Ohio submitted letters of clarification on August 19, 1997 (Administrative Record No. OH-2173-07), and October 14, 1997 (Administrative Record No. OH-2173-08). The proposed amendment was announced in the July 7, 1997, **Federal Register** (62 FR 36248). The revision to Ohio Revised Code 1513.13(E)(2) was inadvertently omitted from the notice. Ohio proposes to require that if a final order relating to Chapter 1513 is issued under section 1513.13 and becomes the subject of judicial review, at the request of any party, a sum equal to the aggregate amount of all costs and expenses, including attorney fees, as determined by the court to have been necessary and reasonably incurred by the party for or in connection with their participation in the judicial proceedings may be awarded to either party, in accordance with (E)(1) of section 1513.13 as the court, on the basis of judicial review, considers proper.

III. Public Comment Procedures

In accordance with the provisions of 30 CFR 732.17(h), OSM is seeking comments on whether the proposed amendment satisfies the applicable program approval criteria of 30 CFR 732.15. Specifically, OSM is seeking comments on the revision to the State's regulations that was submitted on June 24, 1997 (Administrative Record No. OH-2173-00), with the addition noted above. Comments should address whether the proposed amendment satisfies the applicable program approval criteria of 30 CFR 732.15. If the amendment is deemed adequate, it will become part of the Ohio program.

Written Comments

Written comments should be specific, pertain only to the issues proposed in this rulemaking, and include explanations in support of the commenter's recommendations. Comments received after the time

indicated under "DATES" or at locations other than the Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center will not necessarily be considered in the final rulemaking or included in the Administrative Record.

IV. Procedural Determination

Executive Order 12866

This rule is exempted from review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review).

Executive Order 12988

The Department of the Interior has conducted the reviews required by section 3 of Executive Order 12988 (Civil Justice Reform) and has determined that, to the extent allowed by law, this rule meets the applicable standards of subsection (a) and (b) of that section. However, these standards are not applicable to the actual language of State regulatory programs and program amendments since each such program is drafted and promulgated by a specific State, not by OSM. Under sections 503 and 505 of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1253 and 1255) and 30 CFR 730.11, 732.15, and 732.17(h)(10), decisions on proposed State regulatory programs and program amendments submitted by the States must be based solely on a determination of whether the submittal is consistent with SMCRA and its implementing Federal regulations and whether the other requirements of 30 CFR parts 730, 731, and 732 have been met.

National Environmental Policy Act

No environmental impact statement is required for this rule since section 702(d) of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1292(d)) provides that agency decisions on proposed State regulatory program provisions do not constitute major Federal actions within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not contain information collection requirements that require approval by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3507 *et seq.*).

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Department of the Interior has determined that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). The State submittal which is the subject of this rule is based upon counterpart Federal regulations for

which an economic analysis was prepared and certification made that such regulations would not have a significant economic effect upon a substantial number of small entities. Accordingly, this rule will ensure that existing requirements previously promulgated by OSM will be implemented by the State. In making the determination as to whether this rule would have a significant economic impact, the Department relied upon the data and assumptions for the counterpart Federal regulations.

Unfunded Mandates

This rule will not impose a cost of \$100 million or more in any given year on any governmental entity or the private sector.

List of Subjects in 30 CFR Part 935

Intergovernmental relations, Surface mining, Underground mining.

Dated: November 19, 1997.

John A. Holbrook, II,

Acting Regional Director, Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center.

[FR Doc. 97-31578 Filed 12-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-05-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

30 CFR Part 926

[SPATS No. MT-018-FOR]

Montana Regulatory Program

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior.
ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening and extension of public comment period and opportunity for public hearing on proposed amendment.

SUMMARY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is announcing receipt of additional explanatory information pertaining to a previously proposed amendment to the Montana regulatory program (hereinafter, the "Montana program") under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). The additional explanatory information for Montana's proposed rules pertain to permit requirements and a notice of intent to prospect. The amendment is intended to revise the Montana program to provide additional safeguards, clarify ambiguities, and improve operational efficiency.

DATES: Written comments must be received by 4:00 p.m., m.s.t. December 17, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be mailed or hand delivered to Guy Padgett at the address listed below.

Copies of the Montana program, the proposed amendment, and all written comments received in response to this document will be available for public review at the addresses listed below during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Each requester may receive one free copy of the proposed amendment by contacting OSM's Casper Field Office.

Guy Padgett, Director, Casper Field Office, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 100 East "B" Street, Room 2128, Casper, WY, 82601-1918, Telephone: (307) 261-5776.

Steve Welch, Chief, Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT, 59620-0091, Telephone: (406) 444-4964.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Guy Padgett, Telephone: (307) 261-5776.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background on the Montana Program

On April 1, 1980, the Secretary of the Interior conditionally approved the Montana program. General background information on the Montana program, including the Secretary's findings, the disposition of comments, and conditions of approval of the Montana program can be found in the April 1, 1980, **Federal Register** (45 FR 21560). Subsequent actions concerning Montana's program and program amendments can be found at 30 CFR 926.15, 926.16, and 926.30.

II. Proposed Amendment

By letter dated March 5, 1996, Montana submitted a proposed amendment to its program pursuant to SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*) (Administrative Record No. MT-15-01). Montana submitted the proposed amendment at its own initiative. The provisions of the Administrative Rules of Montana that Montana proposed to revise were: 26.4.410, permit renewal; 26.4.1001, permit requirement; and 26.4.1001A, notice of intent to prospect.

OSM announced receipt of the proposed amendment in the April 10, 1996, **Federal Register** (61 FR 15910), provided an opportunity for a public hearing or meeting on its substantive adequacy, and invited public comment on its adequacy (Administrative Record No. MT-15-04). Because no one requested a public hearing or meeting, none was held. The public comment period ended on May 10, 1996.

During its review of the amendment, OSM identified concerns relating to the requirements for prospecting permits and notices of intent to prospect at 26.4.1001(1)(a) and 26.4.1001A(1) and (1)(b)(ii). OSM notified Montana of the concerns by letter dated December 6, 1996 (Administrative Record No. MT-15-09). Montana responded in a letter dated November 6, 1997, by submitting additional explanatory information (Administrative Record No. MT-15-12).

Specifically, Montana has submitted a proposed statute revision contained in another rulemaking (SPATS No. MT-017-FOR; Administrative Record No. MT-14-11) to address OSM's concerns with permit requirements and a notice of intent to prospect. Instead of revising the proposed rules, Montana explains that proposed changes to the statute at Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 82-4-226(8) to require a permit for prospecting when more than 250 tons of coal would be removed, would resolve OSM's identified deficiency.

III. Public Comment Procedures

OSM is reopening the comment period on the proposed Montana program amendment to provide the public an opportunity to reconsider the adequacy of the proposed amendment in light of the additional materials submitted. In accordance with the provisions of 30 CFR 732.17(h), OSM is seeking comments on whether the proposed amendment satisfies the applicable program approval criteria of 30 CFR 732.15. If the amendment is deemed adequate, it will become part of the Montana program.

Written comments should be specific, pertain only to the issues proposed in this rulemaking, and include explanations in support of the commenter's recommendations. Comments received after the time indicated under **DATES** or at locations other than the Casper Field Office will not necessarily be considered in the final rulemaking or included in the administrative record.

IV. Procedural Determinations

1. Executive Order 12866

This rule is exempted from review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review).

2. Executive Order 12988

The Department of the Interior has conducted the reviews required by section 3 of Executive Order 12988 (Civil Justice Reform) and has determined that this rule meets the applicable standards of subsections (a)

and (b) of that section. However, these standards are not applicable to the actual language of State regulatory programs and program amendments since each such program is drafted and promulgated by a specific State, not by OSM. Under sections 503 and 505 of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1253 and 1255) and the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 730.11, 732.15, and 732.17(h)(10), decisions on proposed State regulatory programs and program amendments submitted by the States must be based solely on a determination of whether the submittal is consistent with SMCRA and its implementing Federal regulations and whether the other requirements of 30 CFR parts 730, 731, and 732 have been met.

3. National Environmental Policy Act

No environmental impact statement is required for this rule since section 702(d) of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1292(d)) provides that agency decisions on proposed State regulatory program provisions do not constitute major Federal actions within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

4. Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not contain information collection requirements that require approval by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3507 *et seq.*).

5. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Department of the Interior has determined that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). The State submittal that is the subject of this rule is based upon counterpart Federal regulations for which an economic analysis was prepared and certification made that such regulations would not have a significant economic effect upon a substantial number of small entities. Accordingly, this rule will ensure that existing requirements previously promulgated by OSM will be implemented by the State. In making the determination as to whether this rule would have a significant economic impact, the Department relied upon the data and assumptions for the counterpart Federal regulations.

6. Unfunded Mandates

This rule will not impose a cost of \$100 million or more in any given year on any governmental entity or the private sector.

List of Subjects in 30 CFR Part 926

Intergovernmental relations, Surface mining, Underground mining.

Dated: November 20, 1997.

Richard J. Seibel,

Regional Director, Western Regional Coordinating Center.

[FR Doc. 97-31579 Filed 12-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-05-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**40 CFR Part 52**

[LA35-1-7305b; FRL-5928-3]

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans, Louisiana; Reasonable Available Control Technology for Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: In this action, the EPA proposes to conditionally approve in part, and fully approving in part, revisions to the Louisiana State Implementation Plan (SIP). The revisions incorporate regulations to control Volatile Organic Compound emissions from major stationary sources by means of Reasonable Available Control Technology. The major stationary source category controlled by the conditionally approved regulation is batch processes. The major stationary source categories controlled by the fully approved regulations are Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturing Industry (SOCMI) reactors, SOCMI distillation, and industrial cleanup solvents. The intended effect of these rules is to reduce VOC emissions into the ambient air and thereby reduce ground-level ozone concentrations.

In the Rules and Regulations Section of this **Federal Register**, EPA is approving the State's SIP revision as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial revision and anticipates no adverse comments. The rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no adverse comments are received in response to this proposed rule, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this rule. If EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn, and all public comments received during the 30-day comment period set forth below will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. Any

parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

DATES: Comments on this proposed rule must be received in writing by January 2, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on this action should be addressed to Mr. Thomas Diggs, Chief, Air Planning Section, at the EPA Region 6 Office listed below. Copies of the documents relevant to this proposed rule are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the following locations. Anyone wanting to examine these documents should make an appointment with the appropriate office at least two working days in advance.

Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, Air Planning Section (6PD-L), Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division, 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 700, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733.

Air Quality Division, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 7290 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Eaton R. Weiler, of the EPA Region 6 Air Planning Section at the above address, telephone (214) 665-2174.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: See the information provided in the direct final action of the same title which is published in the Rules and Regulations section of this **Federal Register**.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Hydrocarbons, Incorporation by reference, Ozone, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

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

Dated: November 10, 1997.

Lynda F. Carroll,

Acting Regional Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-31409 Filed 12-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**40 CFR Part 81**

[AK 19-1707; FRL-5923-8]

Clean Air Act Reclassification; Anchorage, Alaska, Carbon Monoxide Nonattainment Area

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This action proposes to find that the Municipality of Anchorage,

Alaska, carbon monoxide (CO) nonattainment area has not attained the CO national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) under the Clean Air Act (CAA). The CO nonattainment occurred after Anchorage received a one year extension from the mandated attainment date of December 31, 1995 for moderate nonattainment areas to December 31, 1996. This proposed finding is based on EPA's review of monitored air quality data for compliance with the CO NAAQS. Final action on this proposed finding would result in the Anchorage CO nonattainment area being reclassified by operation of law as a serious nonattainment area. The result of such a reclassification would be that the State must submit a new State implementation plan (SIP) providing for attainment of the CO NAAQS by no later than December 31, 2000, the CAA attainment deadline for serious CO areas.

DATES: Written comments on this proposal must be received by January 2, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comment should be addressed to Ms. Montel Livingston, Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality (OAQ 107), Docket AK 17-1705, 1200 6th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101. Information supporting this action is available for inspection during normal business hours at the following locations: EPA, Office of Air Quality, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101, and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), 410 Willoughby, Suite 105, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1795.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Pavitt, Alaska Air Coordinator, EPA Alaska Operations Office, 907/271-3688.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

A. CAA Requirements and EPA Actions Concerning Designation and Classification

The CAA Amendments of 1990 were enacted on November 15, 1990. Under Section 107(d)(1)(C) of the CAA, each CO area designated nonattainment prior to enactment of the 1990 Amendments, such as the Anchorage area, was designated nonattainment by operation of law upon enactment of the 1990 Amendments. Under section 186(a) of the CAA, each CO area designated nonattainment under section 107(d) was also classified by operation of law as either "moderate" or "serious" depending on the severity of the area's air quality problem. CO nonattainment