

**DATES:** Comments must be received in writing by March 29, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to David L. Arnold, Chief, Ozone and Mobile Sources Branch, Mailcode 3AP21, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103. Copies of the documents relevant to this action are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Air Protection Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103 and the District of Columbia Department of Public Health, Air Quality Division, 2100 Martin Luther King Ave, S.E., Washington, DC 20020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kristeen Gaffney, (215) 814-2092 at the EPA Region III address above, or by e-mail at gaffney.kristeen@epamail.epa.gov. While information may be requested via e-mail, any comments must be submitted in writing to the EPA Region III address above.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** For additional information, see the Direct Final action of the same name which is located in the Rules and Regulations section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: February 12, 1999.

**Thomas C. Voltaggio,**

*Acting Regional Administrator, Region III.*  
[FR Doc. 99-4435 Filed 2-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### 40 CFR Part 52

[LA-50-1-7401; FRL-6235-2]

#### Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Louisiana: Revision to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Ozone Maintenance Plan for St. James Parish

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; reopening of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** We are reopening our proposal to approve a revision to the Louisiana SIP for the St. James Parish ozone maintenance area, submitted by Louisiana on April 23, 1998. The revision includes an adjustment to the volatile organic compound emission inventory for the 1990 base year of the approved maintenance plan, and changes to the approved contingency

plan's triggers and control measures. We have received a request to extend the comment period an additional two weeks. The requesters need the additional time to review the initial simulation results of the Urban Airshed Modeling demonstration submitted with this SIP revision. In order to ensure that all interested parties have sufficient opportunity to submit comments, we will re-open the comment period for the St. James Parish SIP revision. Please review our reasons for proposing approval of the St. James Parish SIP revision, as published in the **Federal Register** on January 14, 1999 (64 FR 2455).

**DATES:** Comments received on or before March 29, 1999, including those received between the close of the comment period on February 16, 1999, and the publication of this document, will be entered into the public record and considered by the EPA before taking final action.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on this action should be addressed to Mr. Thomas H. Diggs, Chief, Air Planning Section, at the EPA Regional Office listed below. Copies of the documents relevant to this action are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the following locations. Persons interested in examining these documents should make an appointment with the appropriate office at least 24 hours before the visiting day. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, Air Planning Section (6PD-L), 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 700, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733. Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Air Quality and Radiation Protection, H. B. Garlock Building, 7290 Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70810.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lt. Mick Cote, Air Planning Section (6PD-L), Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733, telephone (214) 665-7219.

#### List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

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

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Dated: February 16, 1999.

**Jerry Clifford,**

*Acting Regional Administrator, Region 6.*  
[FR Doc. 99-4579 Filed 2-24-99; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### 40 CFR Part 82

[FRL-6304-7]

#### Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Incorporation of Montreal Protocol Adjustment for a 1999 Interim Reduction in Class I, Group VI Controlled Substances

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** With this action, EPA is proposing a revision to the accelerated phaseout regulations that govern the production, import, export, transformation and destruction of substances that deplete the ozone layer under the authority of Title VI of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAA or the Act). Today's proposed amendment reflects changes in U.S. obligations under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Protocol) due to recent adjustments by signatory countries to this international agreement. Specifically, today's proposed amendment incorporates the Protocol's 25 percent interim reduction in the production and consumption of class I, Group VI controlled substances (methyl bromide) for the 1999 control period and subsequent control periods.

In taking today's action, EPA recognizes the expressed intent of Congress in recent changes to the Clean Air Act that direct EPA to conform the U.S. phasedown schedule to the Montreal Protocol's schedule for developed nations, including required interim reductions and specific exemptions. EPA intends to follow this proposed rule with other actions to complete the process of conforming the U.S. methyl bromide phaseout schedule and specific exemptions with obligations under the Montreal Protocol and with the recent changes to the Clean Air Act. Through subsequent actions to today's proposed amendment, EPA plans to reflect, through notice and comment rulemaking, the additional steps in the phaseout schedule for the production and consumption of methyl bromide, as follows: beginning January 1, 2001, a 50 percent reduction in baseline levels; beginning January 1, 2003, a 70 percent reduction in baseline levels; beginning January 1, 2005, a complete phaseout of the production and consumption with emergency and critical use exemptions permitted under the Montreal Protocol. Even sooner, EPA plans to publish a proposal that