

a substantial number of small entities. Small entities include small businesses, small not-for-profit enterprises, and small governmental jurisdictions. This final rule will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities because SIP approvals under section 110 and subchapter I, part D of the Clean Air Act do not create any new requirements but simply approve requirements that the State is already imposing. Therefore, because the Federal SIP approval does not create any new requirements, I certify that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Moreover, due to the nature of the Federal-State relationship under the Clean Air Act, preparation of flexibility analysis would constitute Federal inquiry into the economic reasonableness of state action. The Clean Air Act forbids EPA to base its actions concerning SIPs on such grounds. *Union Electric Co., v. U.S. EPA*, 427 U.S. 246, 255-66 (1976); 42 U.S.C. 7410(a)(2).

F. Unfunded Mandates

Under Section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 ("Unfunded Mandates Act"), signed into law on March 22, 1995, EPA must prepare a budgetary impact statement to accompany any proposed or final rule that includes a Federal mandate that may result in estimated annual costs to State, local, or tribal governments in the aggregate; or to private sector, of \$100 million or more. Under Section 205, EPA must select the most cost-effective and least burdensome alternative that achieves the objectives of the rule and is consistent with statutory requirements. Section 203 requires EPA to establish a plan for informing and advising any small governments that may be significantly or uniquely impacted by the rule.

EPA has determined that the approval action promulgated does not include a Federal mandate that may result in estimated annual costs of \$100 million or more to either State, local, or tribal governments in the aggregate, or to the private sector. This Federal action approves pre-existing requirements under State or local law, and imposes no new requirements. Accordingly, no additional costs to State, local, or tribal governments, or to the private sector, result from this action.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Hydrocarbons, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Oxides of nitrogen Ozone, Reporting and record

keeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

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

Dated: February 26, 1999.

Laura Yoshii,

Deputy Regional Administrator, Region IX.

[FR Doc. 99-6504 Filed 3-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[CA 207-0135; FRL-6310-9]

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision; South Coast Air Quality Management District

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is proposing a limited approval and limited disapproval of a revision to the California State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) which concerns the control of Emissions of Oxides of Nitrogen from Stationary Gas Turbines.

The intended effect of proposing approval of this rule is to regulate emissions of NO_x in accordance with the requirements of the Clean Air Act, as amended in 1990 (CAA or the Act). EPA's final action on this proposed rule will incorporate this rule into the Federally approved SIP. EPA has evaluated this rule and is proposing to approve it under provisions of the CAA regarding EPA actions on SIP submittals, SIPs for national primary and secondary ambient air quality standards (NAAQS), and plan requirements for nonattainment areas.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 19, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to: Andrew Steckel, Rulemaking Office, AIR-4, Air Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3901.

Copies of the rule and EPA's evaluation report of the rule are available for public inspection at EPA's Region 9 office during normal business hours. Copies of the submitted rule are also available for inspection at the following locations:

Environmental Protection Agency, Air Docket (6102), 401 "M" Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460
California Air Resources Board, Stationary Source Division, Rule

Evaluation Section, 2020 "L" Street, Sacramento, CA 95812

South Coast Air Quality Management District, 21865 E. Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ed Addison, Rulemaking Office, AIR-4, Air Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3901, Telephone: (415) 744-1160.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Applicability

This **Federal Register** action for the South Coast Air Quality Management District excludes the Los Angeles County portion of the Southeast Desert AQMD, otherwise known as the Antelope Valley Region in Los Angeles County, which is now under the jurisdiction of the Antelope Valley Air Pollution Control District as of July 1, 1997.

The rule being proposed for approval into the California SIP is South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 1134, Emissions of Oxides of Nitrogen from Stationary Gas Turbines. Rule 1134 was submitted by the State of California to EPA on May 18, 1998.

II. Background

On November 15, 1990, the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 were enacted. Pub. L. 101-549, 104 Stat. 2399, codified at 42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q. The air quality planning requirements for the reduction of NO_x emissions through reasonably available control technology (RACT) are set out in section 182(f) of the Clean Air Act.

On November 25, 1992, EPA published a proposed rule entitled, "State Implementation Plans; Nitrogen Oxides Supplement to the General Preamble; Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 Implementation of Title I; Proposed Rule," (the NO_x Supplement) which describes and provides preliminary guidance on the requirements of section 182(f). The November 25, 1992, action should be referred to for further information on the NO_x requirements and is incorporated into this document by reference.

Section 182 (f) of the Clean Air Act requires States to apply the same requirements to major stationary sources of NO_x ("major" as defined in section 302 and sections 182(c), (d), and (e)) as are applied to major stationary sources of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), in moderate or above ozone nonattainment areas. SCAQMD is

classified as extreme;¹ therefore this area is subject to the RACT requirements of section 182(b)(2) and the November 15, 1992 deadline cited below.

Section 182(b)(2) requires submittal of RACT rules for major stationary sources of VOC (and NO_x) emissions (not covered by a pre-enactment control technologies guidelines (CTG) document or a post-enactment CTG document) by November 15, 1992. There were no NO_x CTGs issued before enactment and EPA has not issued a CTG document for any NO_x sources since enactment of the CAA. The RACT rules covering NO_x sources and submitted as SIP revisions are expected to require final installation of the actual NO_x controls as expeditiously as practicable, but no later than May 31, 1995.

This document addresses EPA's proposed action for South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 1134, Emissions of Oxides of Nitrogen from Stationary Gas Turbines Engines, adopted by the SCAQMD on August 8, 1997. The State of California submitted this Rule 1134 to EPA on March 10, 1998. The rule was found to be complete on May 21, 1998, pursuant to EPA's completeness criteria that are set forth in 40 CFR Part 51, Appendix V².

NO_x emissions contribute to the production of ground level ozone and smog. SCAQMD Rule 1134 specifies exhaust emission standards for NO_x, carbon monoxide (CO), and VOCs and was originally adopted as part of SCAQMD's effort to achieve the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone, and in response to the CAA requirements cited above. The following is EPA's evaluation and proposed action for this rule.

III. EPA Evaluation and Proposed Action

In determining the approvability of a NO_x rule, EPA must evaluate the rule for consistency with the requirements of the CAA and EPA regulations, as found in section 110 and Part D of the CAA and 40 CFR Part 51 (Requirements for Preparation, Adoption, and Submittal of Implementation Plans). The EPA interpretation of these requirements, which forms the basis for today's action,

appears in the NO_x Supplement (57 FR 55620) and various other EPA policy guidance documents.³ Among those provisions is the requirement that a NO_x rule must, at a minimum, provide for the implementation of RACT for stationary sources of NO_x emissions.

For the purposes of assisting State and local agencies in developing NO_x RACT rules, EPA prepared the NO_x Supplement to the General Preamble. In the NO_x Supplement, EPA provides preliminary guidance on how RACT will be determined for stationary sources of NO_x emissions. While most of the guidance issued by EPA on what constitutes RACT for stationary sources has been directed towards application for VOC sources, much of the guidance is also applicable to RACT for stationary sources of NO_x (see section 4.5 of the NO_x Supplement). In addition, pursuant to section 183(c), EPA is issuing alternative control technique documents (ACTs), that identify alternative controls for all categories of stationary sources of NO_x. The ACT documents will provide information on control technology for stationary sources that emit or have the potential to emit 25 tons per year or more of NO_x. However, the ACTs will not establish a presumptive norm for what is considered RACT for stationary sources of NO_x. In general, the guidance documents cited above, as well as other relevant and applicable guidance documents, have been set forth to ensure that submitted NO_x RACT rules meet Federal RACT requirements and are fully enforceable and strengthen or maintain the SIP.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB), developed a guidance document entitled Determination of Reasonably Available Control Technology and Best Available Retrofit Control Technology for the Control of Oxides of Nitrogen from Stationary Gas Turbines. EPA has used CARB's guidance document, dated May 18, 1992, in evaluating Rule 1134 for consistency with the CAA's RACT requirements.

There is currently a November 1, 1996 version of South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 1134, Emissions of Oxides of Nitrogen from Stationary Gas Turbines included in the SIP. The submitted rule includes the following provisions:

- General provisions including applicability, exemptions, and definitions.
- Exhaust emissions standards for oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and carbon monoxide (CO).
- Administrative and monitoring requirements including compliance schedule, reporting requirements, monitoring and record keeping, and test methods.

Rules submitted to EPA for approval as revisions to the SIP must be fully enforceable, must maintain or strengthen the SIP and must conform with EPA policy in order to be approved by EPA. When reviewing rules for SIP approvability, EPA evaluates enforceability elements such as test methods, record keeping, and compliance testing in addition to RACT guidance regarding emission limits. Rule 1134 strengthens the SIP through the addition of enforceable measures such as record keeping, test methods, and definitions.

EPA has evaluated South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 1134 for consistency with the CAA, EPA regulations, and EPA policy and has found that the revisions address and correct many deficiencies previously identified by EPA. These corrected deficiencies have resulted in a clearer, more enforceable rule.

In evaluating the rule, EPA must also determine whether the section 182(b) requirement for RACT implementation by May 31, 1995 is met. Under certain circumstances, the determination of what constitutes RACT can include consideration of advanced control technologies such as CARB BARCT requirements. As Rule 1134 requires all units to comply by December 31, 1995, EPA considers the May 31, 1995 deadline to have been met. With the possible exception of the deficiency discussed below, EPA has further found that the amendment to Rule 1134 conforms with the CARB Determination of Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) and Best Available Retrofit Control Technology (BARCT) for Control of Oxides of Nitrogen from Stationary Gas Turbines dated May 18, 1992, and is therefore consistent with the CAA's RACT requirement.

EPA has evaluated South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 1134 for consistency with the CAA, EPA regulations, and EPA policy and has found that although SCAQMD Rule 1134 will strengthen the SIP, this rule contains a deficiency which must be corrected pursuant to the section 182(a)(2)(A) requirement of Part D of the CAA.

¹ SCAQMD retained its designation of nonattainment and was classified by operation of law pursuant to sections 107(d) and 181(a) upon the date of enactment of the CAA. See 55 FR 56694 (November 6, 1991).

² EPA adopted the completeness criteria on February 16, 1990 (55 FR 5830) and, pursuant to section 110(k)(1)(A) of the CAA, revised the criteria on August 26, 1991 (56 FR 42216).

³ Among other things, the pre-amendment guidance consists of those portions of the proposed post-1987 ozone and carbon monoxide policy that concern RACT, 52 FR 45044 (November 24, 1987); "Issues Relating to VOC regulation Cutpoints, Deficiencies, and Deviation, Clarification to Appendix D of November 24, 1987 **Federal Register Notice**" (Blue Book) (notice of availability was published in the **Federal Register** on May 25, 1988).

• Section (c)(1): Since there is an existing SIP rule for this source category, the SIP will be weakened by the incorporation of this amendment. The District estimates that the relief specified effects only one facility at Carson and that the unit can, at best, achieve the current CARB RACT Determination standard of 25 ppmv NO_x. The District further states that no viable alternatives are evident that will enable the unit to achieve the existing Rule 1134 emission limit of 9 ppmv.

The District estimates that this relaxation will result in increased emissions of approximately 46 tons per year of NO_x. Before EPA could approve such modification to the SIP, SCAQMD must demonstrate compliance with section 110(l) of the Clean Air Act. Specifically, SCAQMD must demonstrate that this relaxation will not interfere with attainment, reasonable further progress or any other applicable requirements of the act. We also recommend that SCAQMD and the affected source further consider advanced control technologies including deionized water for turbine injection, use of higher-temperature zeolitic SCR catalysts, new catalytic or thermally controlled "low-NO_x"-turbine-combustor technologies.

A more detailed discussion of the basis for EPA's proposed action can be found in the Technical Support Document (TSD), dated February 11, 1999, which is available from the U.S. EPA, Region IX office.

Because of this deficiency, EPA cannot grant full approval of this rule under section 110(k)(3) and part D. Also, because the submitted rule is not composed of separable parts which meet all the applicable requirements of the CAA, EPA cannot grant partial approval of the rule under section 110(k)(3). However, EPA may grant a limited approval of the submitted rule under section 110(k)(3), in light of EPA's authority pursuant to section 301(a) to adopt regulations necessary to further air quality by strengthening the SIP. The approval is limited because EPA's action also contains a simultaneous limited disapproval. In order to strengthen the SIP, EPA is proposing a limited approval of SCAQMD's submitted Rule 1134 under sections 110(k)(3) and 301(a) of the CAA. At the same time, EPA is also proposing a limited disapproval of this rule because it contains a deficiency which must be corrected in order to fully meet the requirements of sections 182(a)(2), 182(b)(2), 182(f), of part D of the CAA. Under section 179(a)(2), if the Administrator disapproves a submission under section 110(k) for an area

designated nonattainment, based on the submission's failure to meet one or more of the elements required by the Act, the Administrator must apply one of the sanctions set forth in section 179(b) unless the deficiency has been corrected within 18 months of such disapproval. Section 179(b) provides two sanctions available to the Administrator: highway funding and offsets. The 18 month period referred to in section 179(a) will begin on the effective date of EPA's final limited disapproval. Moreover, the final disapproval triggers the Federal implementation plan (FIP) requirement under section 110(c). It should be noted that the rule covered by this document has been adopted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District and is currently in effect in the South Coast Air Quality Management District. EPA's final limited disapproval action will not prevent the South Coast Air Quality Management District or EPA from enforcing this rule.

IV. Administrative Requirements

A. Executive Order 12866

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has exempted this regulatory action from Executive Order (E.O.) 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review.

B. Executive Order 12875

Under Executive Order 12875, Enhancing the Intergovernmental Partnership, EPA may not issue a regulation that is not required by statute and that creates a mandate upon a State, local or tribal government, unless the Federal government provides the funds necessary to pay the direct compliance costs incurred by those governments, or EPA consults with those governments. If EPA consults with those governments, Executive Order 12875 requires EPA to provide to the Office of Management and Budget a description of the extent of EPA's prior consultation with representatives of affected State, local and tribal governments, the nature of their concerns, copies of any written communications from the governments, and a statement supporting the need to issue the regulation. In addition, Executive Order 12875 requires EPA to develop an effective process permitting elected officials and other representatives of State, local and tribal governments "to provide meaningful and timely input in the development of regulatory proposals containing significant unfunded mandates." Today's rule does not create a mandate on State, local or tribal governments. The rule does not impose any enforceable duties on these entities. Accordingly, the requirements of

section 1(a) of E.O. 12875 do not apply to this rule.

C. Executive Order 13045

Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997), applies to any rule that: (1) is determined to be "economically significant" as defined under E.O. 12866, and (2) concerns an environmental health or safety risk that EPA has reason to believe may have a disproportionate effect on children. If the regulatory action meets both criteria, the Agency must evaluate the environmental health or safety effects of the planned rule on children, and explain why the planned regulation is preferable to other potentially effective and reasonably feasible alternatives considered by the Agency. This rule is not subject to E.O. 13045 because it does not involve decisions intended to mitigate environmental health or safety risks.

D. Executive Order 13084

Under Executive Order 13084, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, EPA may not issue a regulation that is not required by statute, that significantly or uniquely affects the communities of Indian tribal governments, and that imposes substantial direct compliance costs on those communities, unless the Federal government provides the funds necessary to pay the direct compliance costs incurred by the tribal governments, or EPA consults with those governments. If EPA complies by consulting, Executive Order 13084 requires EPA to provide to the Office of Management and Budget, in a separately identified section of the preamble to the rule, a description of the extent of EPA's prior consultation with representatives of affected tribal governments, a summary of the nature of their concerns, and a statement supporting the need to issue the regulation. In addition, Executive Order 13084 requires EPA to develop an effective process permitting elected officials and other representatives of Indian tribal governments "to provide meaningful and timely input in the development of regulatory policies on matters that significantly or uniquely affect their communities." Today's rule does not significantly or uniquely affect the communities of Indian tribal governments. Accordingly, the requirements of section 3(b) of E.O. 13084 do not apply to this rule.

E. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) generally requires an agency to conduct a regulatory flexibility analysis of any rule subject to notice and comment rulemaking requirements unless the agency certifies that the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Small entities include small businesses, small not-for-profit enterprises, and small governmental jurisdictions. This final rule will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities because SIP approvals under section 110 and subchapter I, part D of the Clean Air Act do not create any new requirements but simply approve requirements that the State is already imposing. Therefore, because the Federal SIP approval does not create any new requirements, I certify that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Moreover, due to the nature of the Federal-State relationship under the Clean Air Act, preparation of flexibility analysis would constitute Federal inquiry into the economic reasonableness of state action. The Clean Air Act forbids EPA to base its actions concerning SIPs on such grounds. *Union Electric Co., v. U.S. EPA*, 427 U.S. 246, 255-66 (1976); 42 U.S.C. 7410(a)(2).

F. Unfunded Mandates

Under Section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 ("Unfunded Mandates Act"), signed into law on March 22, 1995, EPA must prepare a budgetary impact statement to accompany any proposed or final rule that includes a Federal mandate that may result in estimated annual costs to State, local, or tribal governments in the aggregate; or to private sector, of \$100 million or more. Under Section 205, EPA must select the most cost-effective and least burdensome alternative that achieves the objectives of the rule and is consistent with statutory requirements. Section 203 requires EPA to establish a plan for informing and advising any small governments that may be significantly or uniquely impacted by the rule.

EPA has determined that the approval action promulgated does not include a Federal mandate that may result in estimated annual costs of \$100 million or more to either State, local, or tribal governments in the aggregate, or to the private sector. This Federal action approves pre-existing requirements under State or local law, and imposes no new requirements. Accordingly, no additional costs to State, local, or tribal

governments, or to the private sector, result from this action.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Hydrocarbons, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Oxides of nitrogen Ozone, Reporting and record keeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

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

Dated: February 26, 1999.

Laura Yoshii,

Deputy Regional Administrator, Region IX.

[FR Doc. 99-6503 Filed 3-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[IA 059-1059b; FRL-6310-6]

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The EPA proposes to approve the State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the state of Iowa pertaining to a particulate matter (PM₁₀) control strategy for the Buffalo, Iowa, area. Approval of this SIP revision will make Federally enforceable source emission reduction requirements and achieve attainment and maintenance of the PM₁₀ National Ambient Air Quality Standard.

In the final rules section of the **Federal Register**, the 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 amendment and anticipates no relevant adverse comments. A detailed rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no relevant adverse comments are received in response to this rule, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this rule. If the EPA receives relevant 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 commenting on this action should do so at this time.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing by April 19, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Wayne Kaiser, Environmental

Protection Agency, Air Planning and Development Branch, 726 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66101.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne Kaiser at (913) 551-7603.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: See the information provided in the direct final rule which is located in the rules section of the **Federal Register**.

Dated: February 19, 1999.

William Rice,

Acting Regional Administrator.

[FR Doc. 99-6499 Filed 3-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[IL180-1b; FRL-6308-3]

Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plan; Illinois

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is proposing to approve the October 13, 1998, Illinois site-specific State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision request revising reasonably available control technology requirements for volatile organic compound emissions at Central Can Company, in Chicago, Illinois. In the final rules section of this **Federal Register**, the EPA is approving the State's request as a direct final rule without prior proposal because EPA views this action as noncontroversial and anticipates no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for approving the State's request is set forth in the direct final rule. The direct final rule will become effective without further notice unless the Agency receives relevant adverse written comment on this action. Should the Agency receive such comment, it will publish a final rule informing the public that the direct final rule will not take effect and such public comment received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. If no adverse written comments are received, the direct final rule will take effect on the date stated in that document and no further activity will be taken on this proposed rule. EPA does not plan to institute a second comment period on this action. Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before April 19, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be mailed to: J. Elmer Bortzer, Chief,