

his authority to submit State Implementation Plans (SIPs) and SIP revisions to Christopher Jones, Director of the Ohio EPA.

What Are SIPs?

Under section 110 and part D of the Clean Air Act, States are required to develop plans for attaining and maintaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six criteria pollutants: sulfur dioxide (SO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), ozone, particulate matter (PM), and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). These plans are referred to as state implementation plans or SIPs.

What Are NAAQS?

NAAQS are standards of air quality which are established to protect both human health and welfare.

What Are the Pertinent Requirements for SIP Submittals?

Federal requirements to which SIP submittals must conform are codified at PART 51—REQUIREMENTS FOR PREPARATION, ADOPTION, AND SUBMITTAL OF IMPLEMENTATION PLANS of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The requirement which is the subject of this document is contained in section 103 Submission of plans, preliminary review of plans. This section provides that the Governor or his designee must submit SIP revisions to EPA. By his May 6, 1999, letter, Governor Taft notified EPA that he delegated this task to the Director of the Ohio EPA, Christopher Jones.

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

Dated: September 17, 1999.

Francis X. Lyons,

Regional Administrator, Region 5.

[FR Doc. 99-25437 Filed 9-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6448-1]

Acid Rain Program: Notice of Annual Adjustment Factors for Excess Emission Penalty

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of annual adjustment factors for excess emissions penalty.

SUMMARY: Under the Acid Rain Program, affected units must hold enough allowances to cover their sulfur dioxide emissions and meet an emission limit for nitrogen oxides. Under 40 CFR 77.6, units that do not meet these requirements must pay a penalty

without demand to the Administrator based on the number of excess tons emitted times \$2000 as adjusted by an annual adjustment factor that must be published in the **Federal Register**.

The annual adjustment factor for adjusting the penalty for excess emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides under 40 CFR part 77 for compliance year 1999 is 1.3114. This value is derived from the Consumer Price Index for 1990 and 1999, as defined in 40 CFR part 72, and corresponds to a penalty of \$2623 per excess ton of sulfur dioxide or nitrogen oxides emitted.

The annual adjustment factor for adjusting the penalty for excess emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides under 40 CFR part 77 for compliance year 2000 is 1.3411. This value is derived from the Consumer Price Index for 1990 and 2000, as defined in 40 CFR part 72, and corresponds to a penalty of \$2682 per excess ton of sulfur dioxide or nitrogen oxides emitted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Miller, Acid Rain Division (6204J), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460 at (202) 564-9077.

Dated: September 21, 1999.

Larry F. Kertcher,

Acting Director, Acid Rain Division, Office of Atmospheric Programs, Office of Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 99-25439 Filed 9-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6447-8]

Adoption of Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact, Inyo County Saltcedar Control Program; Owens Valley, CA

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY:

Project Location and Description

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposes to adopt an EA for a long-term, comprehensive program to control and possibly eradicate saltcedar (also known as tamarix) from portions of the Owens Valley. This plant is an aggressive non-native shrub or tree that displaces native vegetation and wildlife. The work will primarily involve cutting stems and applying

herbicides to cut stems in infested areas on land owned by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). The project area extends from the Inyo County line north of Bishop to the southern end of the valley near Olancho. It consists of unincorporated land owned by the LADWP. The work area extends from the Inyo County line north of Bishop to the southern end of the valley near Olancho. Saltcedar stands occur in patches and encompass about 25,000 acres. The work will primarily occur during the months of October through March, and will continue for 5 or more years. Funding is provided by LADWP and a grant from the EPA.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the program is to systematically eradicate saltcedar on City of Los Angeles land within Inyo County. The benefit of the program would be to facilitate the recovery of native plant communities in the affected areas, thereby increasing the abundance and variety of plant and animal life. The program would implement an element of the Inyo County/Los Angeles Long-term Water Agreement, result in beneficial impacts to the native habitats and wildlife, and assist in implementing the Lower Owens River Project.

Environmental Consequences and Conditions

The proposed saltcedar control program will represent a beneficial impact to the native habitats of the Owens Valley because there will be an increase in the amount and diversity of native plant communities, which will result in an increase in the abundance and diversity of fish and wildlife. The project includes 14 mitigation measures to avoid significant impacts, therefore, no significant impacts to the environment will result from the implementation of this project.

Preliminary Findings

EPA has determined that the proposed project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and that an environmental impact statement will not be required for the project.

The EA is available for public inspection at EPA Region 9 in San Francisco, California at 75 Hawthorne Street. To review the project document, to obtain a copy of the document, or to obtain additional information regarding the project, please contact Wendy Melgin of EPA Region 9 at (415) 744-1831 or via e-mail at melgin.wendy@epamail.epa.gov.