

statutory requirements. Section 203 requires EPA to establish a plan for informing and advising any small governments that may be significantly or uniquely impacted on by the rule.

In developing the HMIWI emission guidelines and standards, EPA prepared a written statement pursuant to section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Act which it published in the 1997 promulgation notice (*see* 60 FR 48374 to 48378). The EPA has determined that this State Plan does not include any new Federal mandates above those previously considered during promulgation of the 1997 HMIWI guidelines. The State Plan does include an emission limitation for mercury that will be more stringent than the limit required by the EG. However, that limit is not the result of a Federal mandate. In approving the State Plan, EPA is approving pre-existing requirements under State law and imposing no new requirements. Accordingly, no additional costs to State, local, or tribal governments, or to the private sector, result from EPA's approval of State Plan provisions that may be more stringent than the EG requirements, nor will EPA's approval of the State Plan significantly or uniquely affect small governments. Thus, this action is not subject to the requirements of sections 202, 203, 204, and 205 of the Unfunded Mandates Act.

G. Submission to Congress and the General Accounting Office

Under 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A), as amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, EPA submitted a report containing this rule and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the General Accounting Office prior to publication of the rule in today's **Federal Register**. This rule is not a "major rule" as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

H. National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act

Section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 ("NTTAA"), Public Law 104-113, section 12(d) (15 U.S.C. 272 note) directs EPA to use voluntary consensus standards in its regulatory activities unless to do so would be inconsistent with applicable law or otherwise impractical. Voluntary consensus standards are technical standards (*e.g.*, materials specifications, test methods, sampling procedures, and business practices) that are developed or adopted by voluntary consensus bodies. The NTTAA directs EPA to provide

Congress, through OMB, explanations when the Agency decides not to use available and applicable voluntary consensus standards.

In approving or disapproving State Plans under section 129 of the Clean Air Act, EPA does not have the authority to revise or rewrite the State's rule, so the Agency does not have authority to require the use of particular voluntary consensus standards. Accordingly, EPA has not sought to identify or require the State to use voluntary consensus standards. Furthermore, New Hampshire's Plan incorporates by reference test methods and sampling procedures for existing HMIWI units already established by the emissions guidelines for HMIWIs at 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart Ce, and does not establish new technical standards for HMIWIs. Therefore, the requirements of the NTTAA are not applicable to this final rule.

I. Petitions for Judicial Review

Under section 307(b)(1) of the Clean Air Act, petitions for judicial review of this action must be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the appropriate circuit by April 10, 2000. Filing a petition for reconsideration by the Administrator of this final rule does not affect the finality of this rule for the purposes of judicial review, nor does it extend the time within which a petition for judicial review may be filed, and shall not postpone the effectiveness of such rule or action. This action may not be challenged later in proceedings to enforce its requirements. (See section 307(b)(2), 42 U.S.C. 7607(b)(2). EPA encourages interested parties to comment in response to the proposed rule rather than petition for judicial review, unless the objection arises after the comment period allowed for in the proposal.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 62

Administrative practice and procedure, Air pollution control, Environmental protection, Intergovernmental relations, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Sulfur oxides.

Dated: January 20, 2000.

Mindy S. Lubber,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 1.

40 CFR Part 62 is amended as follows:

PART 62—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for Part 62 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401-7642.

Subpart EE—New Hampshire

2. Section 62.7325 is amended by adding paragraphs (b)(2) and (c)(2) to read as follows:

§ 62.7325 Identification of plan.

(b) * * *

(2) Control of air emissions from existing hospital/medical/infectious waste incinerators, submitted on June 2, 1999.

(c) * * *

(2) Hospital/medical/infectious waste incinerators.

3. Part 62 is amended by adding a new § 62.7450 and a new undesignated center heading to Subpart EE to read as follows:

Air Emissions From Existing Hospital/Medical/Infectious Waste Incinerators

§ 62.7450 Identification of sources.

(a) The plan applies to existing hospital/medical/infectious waste incinerators for which construction commenced on or before June 20, 1996.

(b) [Reserved].

[FR Doc. 00-2472 Filed 2-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

43 CFR Part 11

RIN 1090-AA72

Natural Resource Damage Assessments—Type A Procedures

AGENCY: Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Final rule; correcting amendments.

SUMMARY: On May 7, 1996, the Department of the Interior published a final rule establishing two simplified, or "type A," procedures for assessing natural resource damages under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. 61 FR 20559. Those procedures incorporated two computer models. The Department made a number of technical corrections to the models on November 10, 1997. 62 FR 60457. This rule makes additional technical corrections to those models.

DATES: This final rule is effective February 8, 2000. The incorporation by reference of the publications listed in this rule was approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of February 8, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Rosenberger at (202) 208-3301.

Interested parties may obtain copies of the computer models and supporting documentation free of charge from the Department through April 28, 2000, and thereafter for a fee from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161, ph: (703) 487-4650. The models are also on the Internet at <http://www.doi.gov/oepc/oepcbb.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*) (CERCLA) provides that certain categories of persons, known as potentially responsible parties (PRPs), are liable for natural resource damages resulting from a release of a hazardous substance. CERCLA sec. 107(a). Natural resource damages are monetary compensation for injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources. CERCLA sec. 107(a)(4)(C). Only those Federal, State, and Indian tribe officials designated as natural resource trustees may recover natural resource damages. CERCLA requires the President to promulgate regulations for the assessment of natural resource damages resulting from hazardous substance releases. CERCLA sec. 301(c). The President delegated the responsibility for promulgating these regulations to the Department. E.O. 12316, as amended by E.O. 12580. CERCLA requires that the natural resource damage assessment regulations include two types of assessment procedures. "Type A" procedures are "standard procedures for simplified assessments requiring minimal field observation." CERCLA sec. 301(c)(2)(A). "Type B" procedures are "alternative protocols for conducting assessments in individual cases." CERCLA sec. 301(c)(2)(B). Both types of procedures are codified at 43 CFR part 11.

On May 7, 1996, the Department published a final rule that revised an existing type A procedure for assessing natural resource damages from minor releases in coastal areas and established an additional type A procedure for minor releases in the Great Lakes. Trustees obtain a rebuttable presumption in litigation for damages, up to \$100,000, calculated in accordance with those procedures. Both procedures incorporate computer models. The type A procedure for coastal areas incorporates the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Model for Coastal and Marine Environments (NRDAM/CME) and the type A procedure for Great Lakes incorporates

the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Model for Great Lakes Environments (NRDAM/GLE). The Department made a number of technical corrections to the models on November 10, 1997. 62 FR 60457. The models currently incorporated by reference in the regulations are the NRDAM/CME Version 2.5 and the NRDAM/GLE Version 1.5.

The regulations identify the conditions under which trustees may use the models. 43 CFR 11.34. The regulations also specify the data inputs trustees must provide to operate the NRDAM/CME and the NRDAM/GLE. After trustees supply the data inputs, the models themselves perform the remaining calculations necessary to establish if there has been an injury, quantify the extent of injury, estimate the cost of restoration actions, and value economic losses. Both models include four linked submodels: a physical fates submodel, a biological effects submodel, a restoration submodel, and a compensable value submodel.

Need for This Rulemaking

The Department has discovered that the NRDAM/CME Version 2.5 and the NRDAM/GLE Version 1.5 are not Y2K compliant. The source codes for the models make limited use of dates, instead using time since the spill for most calculations. However, the compensable value submodel does use the spill year (supplied by the user as a 2-digit number) when determining how to discount economic values into present-day terms.

Test runs of the NRDAM/GLE Version 1.5 showed that the year entry "0" for year 2000 caused the model to enter an infinite loop, such that it is unable to run a spill occurring in year 2000. The model would run year = 1 for 2001, but the year was incorrectly interpreted as 1901. This caused the discounting to be incorrectly calculated. Test runs of the NRDAM/CME Version 2.5 showed that, unlike the NRDAM/GLE Version 1.5, the year entry "0" for year 2000 (or 1, 2, etc. for after 2000) allowed the model to run. However, as with the NRDAM/GLE Version 1.5, the year was interpreted incorrectly (as 1900), thus causing the discounting to be calculated incorrectly.

The Department has also learned of two non-Y2K related programming errors in the models. In the model output text of the NRDAM/GLE Version 1.5, the implicit price deflator (which is entered by the user and used in the discounting calculations) was stated to be relative to 1987, when in fact the regulations require that the user supply the implicit price deflator relative to 1992. In the NRDAM/CME Version 2.5,

a problem arose if a user ran the physical fates submodel alone and then ran the biological effects and compensable value submodels later. In that case, the user interface was not providing the implicit price deflator to the biological effects and compensable value submodels, and zero was assumed, which caused compensable values to be zeroed out.

The Department has developed new versions of the models that correct these programming errors: the NRDAM/GLE Version 1.51 and the NRDAM/CME Version 2.51. The Department is issuing this rule to announce the availability of these new versions and to amend the regulations so that they incorporate these new versions. In order to obtain the rebuttable presumption, trustees must now use the new versions of the models.

Changes to the NRDAM/GLE and its Technical Documentation

To fix the Y2K problem, the Department made two changes in the source code for the NRDAM/GLE. First, the infinite loop for year = 0 was caused by the model simply not accepting a zero entry; therefore, the Department changed the source code so that a year greater than or equal to zero is acceptable to the model. Second, the Department changed the source code so that years from 0 to 49 are interpreted as 2000 to 2049, while years 50-99 are interpreted as 1950-1999. The Department has also changed the source code so that the model output text indicates the correct base year (1992) for the implicit price deflator.

The source code for the NRDAM/GLE is included in Volume IV of "The CERCLA Type A Natural Resource Damage Assessment Model for Great Lakes Environments, Technical Documentation," which is incorporated by reference into the regulations. 43 CFR 11.18(a)(5). The Department is amending Volume IV with a document entitled "Revision II," and dated December 1999, that describes how the source code for the NRDAM/GLE Version 1.5 was modified to create the NRDAM/GLE Version 1.51.

Changes to the NRDAM/CME and its Technical Documentation

To fix the Y2K problem in the NRDAM/CME, the Department changed the source code so that years from 0 to 49 are interpreted as 2000 to 2049, while years 50-99 are interpreted as 1950-1999. The Department also changed the source so that the user interface supplies the implicit price deflator to the biological effects and compensable value submodels even

when those submodels are run separately from the physical fates submodel.

The source code for the NRDAM/CME is included in Volume VI of "The CERCLA Type A Natural Resource Damage Assessment Model for Coastal and Marine Environments, Technical Documentation," which is incorporated by reference into the regulations. 43 CFR 11.18(a)(4). The Department is amending Volume VI with a document entitled "Revision II," and dated December 1999, that describes how the source code for the NRDAM/CME Version 2.5 was modified to create the NRDAM/CME Version 2.51.

Justification for Issuing a Direct Final Rule

This rule does not modify any substantive decisions the Department made in the May 7, 1996 rulemaking. The technical corrections described in this rule are necessary to ensure that NRDAM/CME and NRDAM/GLE conform to the descriptions and decisions stated in the May 7, 1996, preamble and in the supporting technical documentation for the models. The additional changes are also nonsubstantive in nature. Therefore, the Department finds that there is good cause under section 553(b)(3)(b) of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 551 et seq.) to make these corrections and changes without first issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking. For the same reasons, the Department finds that there is good cause under section 553(d)(3) of the Administrative Procedure Act to make this final rule effective immediately.

List of Subjects in 43 CFR Part 11

Coastal zone, Environmental protection, Fish, Hazardous substances, Incorporation by reference, Indian lands, Marine resources, National forests, National parks, Natural resources, Public lands, Recreation areas, Sea shores, Wildlife, Wildlife refuges.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, Title 43, Subtitle A of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 11—NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS

1. The authority citation for Part 11 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 9651(c), as amended.

Subpart A—Introduction

2. Section 11.18 is amended by revising paragraphs (a)(4) and (a)(5) to read as follows:

§ 11.18 Incorporation by reference.

(a) * * *

(4) The CERCLA Type A Natural Resource Damage Assessment Model for Coastal and Marine Environments Technical Documentation, Volumes I–VI, dated April 1996, including Revision I dated October 1997, and Revision II dated December 1999, prepared for the U.S. Department of the Interior by Applied Science Associates, Inc., A.T. Kearney, Inc., and Hagler Bailly Consulting, Inc. (NRDAM/CME technical document). Interested parties may obtain a copy of this document from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161; PB96–501788; ph: (703) 487–4650. Sections 11.34 (a), (b), and (e), 11.35(a), 11.36(b), 11.40(a), and 11.42(a), and Appendix II refer to this document.

(5) The CERCLA Type A Natural Resource Damage Assessment Model for Great Lakes Environments Technical Documentation, Volumes I–IV, dated April 1996, including Revision I dated October 1997, and Revision II dated December 1999, prepared for the U.S. Department of the Interior by Applied Science Associates, Inc., and Hagler Bailly Consulting, Inc. (NRDAM/GLE technical document). Interested parties may obtain a copy of this document from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161; PB96–501770; ph: (703) 487–4650. Sections 11.34 (a), (b), and (e), 11.35(a), 11.36(b), 11.40(a), and 11.42(a), and Appendix III refer to this document.

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Subpart C—Assessment Plan Phase

3. Section 11.33(a) is amended by revising the third sentence to read as follows:

§ 11.33 What types of assessment procedures are available?

* * * * *

(a) * * * There are two type A procedures: a procedure for coastal or marine environments, which incorporates the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Model for Coastal and Marine Environments, Version 2.51 (NRDAM/CME); and a procedure for Great Lakes environments, which incorporates the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Model for Great Lakes Environments, Version 1.51 (NRDAM/GLE).

* * * * *

Subpart D—Type A Procedures

4. Section 11.40(a) is amended by revising the third and fifth sentences to read as follows:

§ 11.40 What are type A procedures?

(a) * * * The type A procedure for coastal and marine environments incorporates a computer model called the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Model for Coastal and Marine Environments Version 2.51 (NRDAM/CME). * * * The type A procedure for Great Lakes environments incorporates a computer model called the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Model for Great Lakes Environments Version 1.51 (NRDAM/GLE). * * *

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John Berry,

Assistant Secretary—Policy, Management, and Budget.

[FR Doc. 00–2432 Filed 2–7–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-RG-P

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

44 CFR Part 65

Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: Modified base (1% annual chance) flood elevations are finalized for the communities listed below. These modified elevations will be used to calculate flood insurance premium rates for new buildings and their contents.

EFFECTIVE DATES: The effective dates for these modified base flood elevations are indicated on the following table and revise the Flood Insurance Rate Map(s) in effect for each listed community prior to this date.

ADDRESSES: The modified base flood elevations for each community are available for inspection at the office of the Chief Executive Officer of each community. The respective addresses are listed in the following table.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matthew B. Miller, P.E., Chief, Hazards Study Branch, Mitigation Directorate, 500 C Street SW., Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646–3461, or (e-mail) matt.miller@fema.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Emergency Management Agency makes the final determinations listed below of the final determinations of