

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 May 17, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be mailed to: J. Elmer Bortzer, Chief, Regulation Development Section, Air Programs Branch (AR-18J), Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

Copies of the State submittal are available for inspection at: Regulation Development Section, Air Programs Branch (AR-18J), Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Rosenthal, Air Programs Branch (AR-18J), Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, (312) 886-6052.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For additional information see the direct final rule published in the final rules section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 15, 2001.

Norman R. Niedergang,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 5.

[FR Doc. 01-9356 Filed 4-16-01; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[PA160-4107b; FRL-6962-4]

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Gasoline Volatility Requirements for Allegheny County

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is proposing to approve State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions submitted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on behalf of the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD). This action proposes to approve ACHD's revised general rules for the use of cleaner gasoline, and changes to the gasoline volatility regulations for Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. In the Final Rules section of this **Federal Register**, EPA is approving the State's SIP submittal as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial submittal and anticipates no adverse comments. A more detailed description of the state submittal and EPA's evaluation are included in a Technical Support Document (TSD) prepared in support of this rulemaking action. A copy of the TSD is available, upon request, from the EPA Regional Office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document. If no adverse comments are received in response to this action, no further activity is contemplated. If EPA receives 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. EPA will not institute a second comment period. Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing by May 17, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to David L. Arnold, Chief, Air Quality Planning and Information Services 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 Allegheny County Health Department, Bureau of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, 301 39th Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jill Webster, (215) 814-2033, at the EPA Region III address above, or by e-mail at webster.jill@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For further information, please see the information provided in the direct final action, with the same title, that is located in the "Rules and Regulations"

section of this **Federal Register** publication.

Dated: March 19, 2001.

William C. Early,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region III.

[FR Doc. 01-9358 Filed 4-16-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Parts 122 and 412

[FRL-6966-9]

RIN 2040-AD19

Extension of Comment Period on the Proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Regulations and Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of Extension of comment period on proposed rule.

SUMMARY: On January 12, 2001, EPA published a proposed rule that would revise the effluent limitations guidelines and standards and NPDES permitting regulations for concentrated animal feeding operations (66 FR 2960). In a subsequent document published on January 19, 2001 (66 FR 5524), a correction was issued that established May 14, 2001 as the deadline for the public to submit comments to EPA on the proposed rule. This document announces that EPA is extending the public comment period on this proposal. EPA will now accept comments on the proposed rule through July 30, 2001.

DATES: Comments must be received or postmarked on or before midnight July 30, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Proposed Rule, Office of Water, Engineering and Analysis Division (4303), U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460. Hand deliveries should be submitted to the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Proposed Rule, USEPA, Waterside Mall, West Tower, Room 611, 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460. You may also submit comments electronically to CAFOS.comments@epa.gov. EPA requests an original and three copies of your comments and enclosures (including references). For additional information on how to submit comments, see **SUPPLEMENTARY**

INFORMATION. How May I Submit Comments?" in the January 12, 2001 proposal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Metchis at (202) 564-0734 or Jan Goodwin at (202) 260-7152.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA continues to invite comments on all aspects of the January 12, 2001 proposal. If you already submitted comments to EPA in response to the proposal, and wish to submit additional comments per today's extension, EPA requests that the later set of comments clearly specify whether they supplement or supersede the earlier-filed comments.

All other requirements that were stipulated in the January 12, 2001 proposal for receipt of comments continue to apply.

Dated: April 6, 2001.

Diane C. Regas,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Water.

[FR Doc. 01-9483 Filed 4-16-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 600

[I.D. 032601C]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Applications for Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notification of a proposal for EFPs to conduct experimental fishing; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has received a proposal to conduct experimental fishing and has made a preliminary

determination that the subject EFP application contains all the required information and warrants further consideration. The Regional Administrator has also made a preliminary determination that the activities authorized under the EFP would be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). However, further review and consultation may be necessary before a final determination is made to issue EFPs. Therefore, NMFS announces that the Regional Administrator is considering whether to issue an EFP that would allow a single vessel to conduct fishing operations otherwise restricted by regulations governing the fisheries of the Northeastern United States. The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MDMF) submitted an application for an EFP that warrants further consideration. The experimental fishery to be conducted under the EFP would target various species of flatfish in order to investigate the cod bycatch of two designs of flatfish trawl nets. The goal of the research is to further the development of flatfish trawl net design in order to reduce cod bycatch by 75 to 90 percent. This notification is intended to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on the proposed experimental fishery.

DATES: Comments must be received by May 2, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Patricia Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark on the outside of the envelope "Comments on Proposed Experimental Fishery."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Warren, Fishery Management Specialist, 978-281-9347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations that govern exempted experimental fishing, at 50 CFR 600.745, allow the Regional Administrator to authorize for certain purposes the targeting or incidental harvest of managed species that would otherwise

be prohibited. An EFP to authorize such activity may be issued, provided there is adequate opportunity for the public to comment on the EFP application, and the conservation goals and objectives of the FMP are not compromised.

The MDMF submitted to NMFS on February 7, 2001, an application for an EFP to conduct gear research in the groundfish fishery in the Gulf of Maine. The research would target flatfish in statistical areas 123 and 124 during the months of April and May, with the objective of comparing two designs of modified flatfish trawl nets to a traditional flatfish net. The goal of the research is to further the design of a flatfish trawl net that could result in significant reductions in the bycatch of cod in the flatfish fishery.

A single vessel would conduct a maximum of four, 3-hr tows on each of 16 days during April and May 2001. A tow using a traditional flatfish net would be alternated with a tow using a modified flatfish net in the same geographic area. Yellowtail flounder is expected to be the predominant species of flatfish caught. The vessel would utilize Days-at-Sea and fish in compliance with the pertinent mesh size, fish size, and trip limit regulations. Legal catch would be kept and marketed in order to defray the costs of the research.

An EFP would be required to exempt the vessel from the restrictions of the Gulf of Maine Rolling Closures. The primary justification the applicant provided for conducting the experiment in Rolling Closure Areas I and II (statistical areas 123 and 124) is that historical data indicate the presence of adequate numbers of cod and flatfish in this area (during April and May) to statistically validate the study results.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: April 11, 2001.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 01-9508 Filed 4-16-01; 8:45 am]

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