

are also available electronically on the Internet for public review, using a www browser type, at <http://www.epa.gov/>.

EPA will also accept comments electronically. Comments should be addressed to the following Internet address: [docket.oeca@epa.gov](mailto:docket.oeca@epa.gov). Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII, WordPerfect 5.1/6.1/8 format file and avoid the use of special characters or any form of encryption. Comments in electronic format should also be identified by the docket number EC-2000-007. Electronic comments will be transferred into a paper version for the official record. EPA will attempt to clarify electronic comments if there is an apparent error in transmission.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

David Schwarz (2823), Office of Environmental Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460, (202) 260-2710, [schwarz.david@epa.gov](mailto:schwarz.david@epa.gov), or Evi Huffer (2823), Office of Environmental Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460, (202) 260-8791, [huffer.evi@epa.gov](mailto:huffer.evi@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

On August 31, 2001 (66 FR 46162), EPA proposed a rule that would set forth the conditions under which EPA would prospectively allow submission of electronic documents and maintenance of electronic records to satisfy federal environmental reporting and recordkeeping requirements in EPA's regulations. As noted in the proposal (66 FR 46163), the rule would affect a broad spectrum of EPA programs (not merely those where specific amendments to the Code of Federal Regulations would be made). While the rule is voluntary because it does not require electronic reporting or recordkeeping, for most programs regulated entities that currently maintain electronic records and who wish to continue to do so after the rule takes effect would be required to meet the recordkeeping criteria in subpart D. As currently defined in the proposal, the term electronic record is broad in scope. Given the breadth and complexity of the rule, several commenters have requested additional time to evaluate and comment upon the proposed rule. EPA greatly values the input provided by the regulated community as well as the input from States that administer EPA programs. Accordingly, the comment period was extended by 60 days, to January 28, 2002, in a notice published in the **Federal Register** on Wednesday, November 28, 2001 (66 FR 59392-

59393), to provide additional time to evaluate and comment upon the proposed rule.

To help foster this comment and evaluation, EPA has scheduled two additional public meetings on the proposed rule's recordkeeping provisions, on January 17, 2002, and on January 31, 2002. The meetings will focus on electronic recordkeeping issues raised by the proposed rule, and will be structured to take comments on at least the following questions: What kinds of records do companies currently keep electronically to satisfy EPA regulatory requirements? How prevalent is this electronic recordkeeping, and what kinds of systems are used? How are automatically captured data and other raw data maintained electronically? How will the proposed rule affect companies' electronic recordkeeping practices, and do some of the proposed provisions raise more issues than others? How do companies currently ensure the integrity and reliability of their electronic records, especially where they do not use audit trails, and what role do recognized industry standards play? What special issues are raised by proposed criteria for long-term archiving, and how do companies currently address this problem? Where archiving involves the conversion of electronic records to paper, how do companies assure data integrity and reliability, and what role do recognized industry standards play? Are there new products or technologies that will help companies address the proposed standards for electronic recordkeeping?

Also, to allow participants and other interested stakeholders to develop comments based on discussions at these public meetings, EPA is extending the comment period an additional 30 days. During this extended comment period, EPA particularly seeks comment on whether or not the recordkeeping provisions in subpart D of the proposed rule should be withdrawn and addressed in a separate rulemaking. EPA also seeks comment on revisions to the recordkeeping criteria or other provisions of the proposed rule that would make it easier for those in the regulated community who already maintain electronic records to continue to do so after the rule takes effect.

Dated: December 21, 2001.

**Kim Nelson,**

*Assistant Administrator and Chief Information Officer, Office of Environmental Information.*

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**40 CFR Part 62**

[R4-200212(b), FRL-7124-8]

**Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; States of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, and South Carolina**

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** EPA is proposing to approve the small Municipal Waste Combustion (MWC) units section 111(d) negative declarations submitted by the states of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, and South Carolina. These negative declarations certify that small MWC units subject to the requirements of sections 111(d) and 129 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) do not exist in these states. Please note that if EPA receives adverse comment on an amendment, paragraph, or section of this rule and if that provision may be severed from the remainder of the rule, EPA may adopt as final those provisions of the rule that are not the subject of an adverse comment. The EPA will not institute a second comment period on this document. Any parties interested in commenting on this document should do so at this time.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before February 4, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be mailed to Scott Davis, EPA Region 4, Air Planning Branch, Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960.

Copies of documents relative to this action are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the above-listed Region 4 location. The interested persons wanting to examine these documents should make an appointment with the office at least 24 hours in advance.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Scott Davis at (404) 562-9127 or Sean Lakeman at (404) 562-9043.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** For additional information see the direct final rule which is published in the Final Rules Section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: December 21, 2001.

**A. Stanley Meiburg,**

*Acting Regional Administrator, Region 4.*

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