

§ 344.3 What special provisions apply to SLG Safe Internet transactions?

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(c) *What special terms and conditions apply to SLG Safe?* The following terms and conditions, which are downloadable from Public Debt's website and which may change from time to time, apply to SLG Safe transactions:

(1) SLG Safe Application for Internet Access and SLG Safe User Acknowledgment; and

(2) SLG Safe User's Manual.

* * * * *

(e) *What SLG Safe functions can I perform in each role?* The role that you play in SLG Safe shall determine the functions that you will be allowed to perform. An explanation of the roles and functions is outlined in the SLG Safe User's Manual.

(f) *How do I apply for access to SLG Safe?* You must apply for SLG Safe access before performing any Internet functions. To apply for SLG Safe Internet access, you must:

(1) Submit to Public Debt a completed form, PD F 4144-5, SLG Safe Application for Internet Access;

(2) Certify that the information on the SLG Safe Application is accurate;

(3) Certify that you are authorized to perform the requested roles; and

(4) Await our written approval of your SLG Safe Application before you, or anyone acting on your behalf, uses an electronic connection to access any of our services or to send any electronic messages.

(g) * * *

(1) Issue log-on information to each user that is authorized on your approved application; and

* * * * *

(h) * * *

(1) Sign, and send to Public Debt, a User Acknowledgement regarding the use of log-on information;

* * * * *

(4) Agree that we may act on any electronic message to the same extent as if we had received a written instruction bearing the signature of your duly authorized officer;

* * * * *

Dated: July 2, 2004.

Donald V. Hammond,

Fiscal Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-15607 Filed 7-7-04; 3:17pm]

BILLING CODE 4810-39-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**40 CFR Part 63**

[AL-112L-2004-1-FRL-7786-2]

Approval of Section 112(l) Authority for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Equivalency by Permit Provisions; National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Chemical Recovery Combustion Sources at Pulp Mills; State of Alabama

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Direct final rule.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 112(l) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) requested approval to implement and enforce State permit terms and conditions that substitute for the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from the Pulp and Paper Industry. The Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed this request and found that it satisfies all of the requirements necessary to qualify for up-front program approval of the State's equivalency by permit (EBP) program. Thus, by approving the State's EBP program the EPA is hereby granting ADEM the authority to implement and enforce alternative requirements in the form of title V permit terms and conditions after EPA has approved the state's alternative requirements.

DATES: This direct final rule is effective September 10, 2004, without further notice, unless EPA receives significant or adverse comments by August 2, 2004. If significant or adverse comments are received, EPA will publish a timely withdrawal of the direct final rule in the **Federal Register** and inform the public that the rule will not take effect.

ADDRESSES: Written comments must be submitted to Lee Page, Air Toxics Assessment and Implementation Section; Air Toxics and Monitoring Branch; Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4; 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. Duplicate copies of all comments must also be submitted to Ronald W. Gore, Chief, Air Division, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, P.O. Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463. Comments may also be submitted electronically, or through hand delivery/courier by following the detailed instructions described in (part (I)(B)(1)(i) through (iii)) of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lee Page, Air Toxics Assessment and Implementation Section, Air Toxics and Monitoring Branch, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, Region 4, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. The telephone number is (404) 562-9131. Mr. Page can also be reached via electronic mail at page.lee@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. General Information**

A. How Can I Get Copies of This Document and Other Related Information?

1. The Regional Office has established an official public rulemaking file for this action under AL-112L-2004-1 that is available for inspection at the Regional Office. The official public file consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to this action. Although a part of the official docket, the public rulemaking file does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official public rulemaking file is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the Air Toxics Assessment and Implementation Section, Air Toxics and Monitoring Branch, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, Region 4, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. EPA requests that if at all possible, you contact the contact listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section to schedule your inspection. The Regional Office's official hours of business are Monday through Friday, 9 to 3:30 excluding Federal holidays.

2. Copies of the State submittal and supporting documents are also available for public inspection during normal business hours, by appointment at the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Air Division, 1400 Coliseum Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama 36110.

3. **Electronic Access.** You may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the Regulation.gov Web site located at <http://www.regulations.gov> where you can find, review, and submit comments on Federal rules that have been published in the **Federal Register**, the Government's legal newspaper, and are open for comment.

For public commenters, it is important to note that EPA's policy is that public comments, whether

submitted electronically or in paper, will be made available for public viewing at the EPA Regional Office, as EPA receives them and without change, unless the comment contains copyrighted material, CBI, or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. When EPA identifies a comment containing copyrighted material, EPA will provide a reference to that material in the version of the comment that is placed in the official public rulemaking file. The entire printed comment, including the copyrighted material, will be available at the Regional Office for public inspection. All comments received on this rulemaking package will be evaluated and addressed if necessary.

B. How and To Whom Do I Submit Comments?

You may submit comments electronically, by mail, or through hand delivery/courier. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate rulemaking identification number by including the text "Public comment on proposed rulemaking AL-112L-2004-1" in the subject line on the first page of your comment. Duplicate copies of all comments should be transmitted to Ronald W. Gore, Chief, Air Division, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, P.O. Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463. Please ensure that your comments are submitted within the specified comment period. Comments received after the close of the comment period will be marked "late." EPA is not required to consider these late comments.

1. *Electronically.* If you submit an electronic comment as prescribed below, EPA recommends that you include your name, mailing address, and an e-mail address or other contact information in the body of your comment. Also include this contact information on the outside of any disk or CD ROM you submit, and in any cover letter accompanying the disk or CD ROM. This ensures that you can be identified as the submitter of the comment and allows EPA to contact you in case EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties or needs further information on the substance of your comment. EPA's policy is that EPA will not edit your comment, and any identifying or contact information provided in the body of a comment will be included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment.

i. *E-mail.* Comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to page.lee@epa.gov. Please include the text "Public comment on proposed rulemaking AL-112L-2004-1" in the subject line. EPA's e-mail system is not an "anonymous access" system. If you send an e-mail comment directly without going through [Regulation.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), EPA's e-mail system automatically captures your e-mail address. E-mail addresses that are automatically captured by EPA's e-mail system are included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket.

ii. *Regulation.gov.* Your use of [Regulation.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) is an alternative method of submitting electronic comments to EPA. Go directly to [Regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) at <http://www.regulations.gov>, then select Environmental Protection Agency at the top of the page and use the go button. The list of current EPA actions available for comment will be listed. Please follow the online instructions for submitting comments. The system is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity, e-mail address, or other contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment.

iii. *Disk or CD ROM.* You may submit comments on a disk or CD ROM that you mail to the mailing address identified in section 2, directly below. These electronic submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect, Word or ASCII file format. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

2. *By Mail.* Send your comments to: Lee Page, Air Toxics Assessment and Implementation Section, Air Toxics and Monitoring Branch, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, Region 4, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. Also, send duplicate copies of comments to Ronald W. Gore, Chief, Air Division, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, P.O. Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463. Please include the text "Public comment on proposed rulemaking AL-112L-2004-1" in the subject line on the first page of your comment.

3. *By Hand Delivery or Courier.* Deliver your comments to: Lee Page; Air Toxics Assessment and Implementation Section; Air Toxics and Monitoring Branch; Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division 12th floor; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4; 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Regional Office's normal hours of operation. The Regional Office's official hours of business are Monday through

Friday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. excluding Federal holidays. Duplicate copies of comments should be delivered to Ronald W. Gore, Chief, Air Division, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, 1400 Coliseum Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463.

C. How Should I Submit CBI to the Agency?

Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI electronically to EPA. You may claim information that you submit to EPA as CBI by marking any part or all of that information as CBI (if you submit CBI on disk or CD ROM, mark the outside of the disk or CD ROM as CBI and then identify electronically within the disk or CD ROM the specific information that is CBI). Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2.

In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes any information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the official public regional rulemaking file. If you submit the copy that does not contain CBI on disk or CD ROM, mark the outside of the disk or CD ROM clearly that it does not contain CBI. Information not marked as CBI will be included in the public file and available for public inspection without prior notice. If you have any questions about CBI or the procedures for claiming CBI, please consult the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

D. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Comments for EPA?

You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your comments:

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.
2. Describe any assumptions that you used.
3. Provide any technical information and/or data you used that support your views.
4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at your estimate.
5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
6. Offer alternatives.
7. Make sure to submit your comments by the comment period deadline identified.
8. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate regional file/rulemaking identification number in the subject line on the first page of your response. It would also be helpful if you provided the name, date, and **Federal**

Register citation related to your comments.

II. Background

On January 12, 2001, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Chemical Recovery Combustion Sources at Pulp Mills (*see* 66 FR 3180) which was codified in 40 CFR part 63, subpart MM, "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Chemical Recovery Combustion Sources at Kraft, Soda, Sulfite, and Stand-Alone Semicemical Pulp Mills" (Pulp and Paper MACT II). The International Paper Prattville Mill in Prattville, Alabama, is one of twelve pulp and paper mills operating in the State and subject to subpart MM.

On March 31, 2004, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) requested delegation of subpart MM under 40 CFR 63.94 for the International Paper Prattville Mill. EPA received the request on April 9, 2004. Specifically, ADEM requested approval to implement and enforce EPA approved alternative title V permit terms and conditions in place of the otherwise applicable requirements of subpart MM under the process outlined in 40 CFR 63.94. As part of its request to implement and enforce alternative terms and conditions in place of the otherwise applicable Federal section 112 Clean Air Act (CAA) standards, ADEM also requested, under 40 CFR 63.91, up-front approval of its demonstration that ADEM has adequate authorities and resources to implement and enforce all delegable CAA section 112 programs and rules. The purpose of this demonstration is to streamline the approval process for future CAA section 112(l) applications.

Under CAA section 112(l), EPA may approve State or local rules or programs to be implemented and enforced in place of certain otherwise applicable CAA section 112 Federal rules, emission standards, or requirements. The Federal regulations governing EPA's approval of State and local rules or programs under section 112(l) are located at 40 CFR part 63, subpart E (*see* 65 FR 55810, dated September 14, 2000). Under these regulations, a State or local air pollution control agency has the option to request EPA's approval to substitute alternative requirements and authorities that take the form of permit terms and conditions instead of source category regulations. This option is referred to as the equivalency by permit (EBP) option. To receive EPA approval using this option, the requirements of 40 CFR 63.91 and 63.94 must be met.

The EBP process comprises three steps. The first step (*see* 40 CFR 63.94(a) and (b)) is the "up-front approval" by EPA of the State EBP program. The second step (*see* 40 CFR 63.94(c) and (d)) is the State's submittal of alternative section 112 requirements in the form of pre-draft permit terms and conditions, which EPA reviews for a determination of equivalency. If EPA finds the pre-draft permit terms and conditions equivalent, it approves the State's alternative requirements and notifies the State in writing. The third step (*see* 40 CFR 63.94(e)) is incorporation of the EPA approved pre-draft permit terms and conditions into a specific title V permit through the title V permit issuance process. Until completion of step three, all requirements of the Pulp and Paper MACT II remain the federally enforceable and applicable requirements for the International Paper Prattville Mill.

The instant rulemaking involves step one of the EBP process. The purpose of step one, the "up-front approval" of the EBP program, is three fold: (1) It ensures that ADEM meets the § 63.91(b) criteria for up-front approval common to all approval options; (2) it provides a legal foundation for ADEM to replace the otherwise applicable Federal section 112 requirements with alternative, federally enforceable requirements that will be reflected in final title V permit terms and conditions; and (3) it delineates the specific sources and Federal emission standards for which ADEM will be accepting delegation under the EBP option.

Under §§ 63.94(b) and 63.91, ADEM's request for up-front approval is required to include the identification of the sources and the source categories for which the State is seeking authority to implement and enforce alternative requirements, the identification of the existing section 112 standard for which the State is seeking authority to implement and enforce alternative requirements, and a one time demonstration that the State has an approved title V operating permit program that permits the affected sources. In addition, § 63.94(b) requires the State to consult with the EPA regional office regarding the number of sources in a category.

III. Final Action

After reviewing the request for approval of ADEM's EBP program for subpart MM, EPA has determined that this request meets all the requirements necessary to qualify for up-front program approval under CAA section 112(l) and 40 CFR 63.91 and 63.94. ADEM's request includes the

identification of the sources and the source categories for which the State is seeking authority to implement and enforce alternative requirements (International Paper's Prattville, Alabama, facility: Chemical Recovery Combustion Sources at Pulp Mills). ADEM's request also includes a one time demonstration of an approved Title V permitting program (ADEM received full EPA approval for its Title V permitting program on October 29, 2001), and an identification of the existing section 112 standard for which it is seeking authority to implement and enforce alternative requirements (Pulp and Paper MACT II). Finally, ADEM has consulted with the EPA Regional Office regarding the number of sources in this category. Accordingly, EPA approves ADEM's request for program approval to implement and enforce alternative requirements in the form of title V permit terms and conditions for International Paper Prattville Mill for subpart MM (step one approval).

The EPA is publishing this rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial submittal and anticipates no comments that would result in amending the direct final rule language (significant or adverse comments). However, in the proposed rules section of this **Federal Register** publication, EPA is publishing a separate document that will serve as the proposal to approve the section 112(l) provisions should significant or adverse comments be filed. This rule will be effective September 10, 2004, without further notice unless the Agency receives significant or adverse comments by August 2, 2004.

If the EPA receives such comments, then EPA will publish a document withdrawing the final rule and informing the public that the rule will not take effect. All public comments received will then be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on the proposed rule. The EPA will not institute a second comment period. Parties interested in commenting should do so at this time. If no such comments are received, the public is advised that this rule will be effective on September 10, 2004, and no further action will be taken on the proposed rule. Please note that if we receive significant or adverse comment on an amendment, paragraph, or section of this rule and if that provision may be severed from the remainder of the rule, we may adopt as final those provisions of the rule that are not the subject of significant or adverse comment.

IV. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

A. Executive Order 12866

Under Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993), this action is not a “significant regulatory action” and therefore is not subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget. For this reason, this action is also not subject to Executive Order 13211, “Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use” (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001). Also, this action is not subject to Executive Order 13045, entitled, “Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks,” because it is not an “economically significant” action under Executive Order 12866.

B. Executive Order 13175

This rule also does not have tribal implications because it will not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes on the relationship between the Federal government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal government and Indian tribes, as specified by Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000). Thus, Executive Order 13175 does not apply to this rule.

C. Executive Order 13132

This action also does not have Federalism implications because it does not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government, as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999). This action merely approves a state program implementing a Federal program, and does not alter the relationship or the distribution of power and responsibilities established in the Clean Air Act. Thus, Executive Order 13132 does not apply to this rule.

D. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), as amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (SBREFA), 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.* generally requires an agency to prepare a regulatory flexibility analysis of any rule subject to notice and comment rulemaking requirements under the Administrative Procedure Act or any other statute 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 entities with jurisdiction over populations of less than 50,000. This rule will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities because approvals under 40 CFR 63.94 do not create any new requirements but simply allows the state to implement and enforce permit terms in place of federal requirements that the EPA is already imposing. Therefore, because this 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.

E. 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 allows Alabama to implement equivalent alternative requirements to replace pre-existing requirements under Federal 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.

F. Submission to Congress and the Comptroller General

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. EPA will submit 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 United States prior to publication of the rule in the **Federal Register**. A major rule cannot take effect until 60 days after it is published in the **Federal Register**. This action is not a “major rule” as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

G. 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 standards bodies. The NTTAA directs EPA to provide Congress, through OMB, explanations when the Agency decides not to use available and applicable voluntary consensus standards. This action does not involve technical standards. Therefore, EPA did not consider the use of any voluntary consensus standards.

H. 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 September 10, 2004. 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).)

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 63

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

Dated: June 29, 2004.

J.I. Palmer, Jr.,

Regional Administrator, Region 4.

■ Title 40, chapter I, part 63 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* is amended as follows:

PART 63—[AMENDED]

■ 1. The authority citation for part 63 continues to read as follows:

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

Subpart E—Approval of State Programs and Delegation of Federal Authorities

■ 2. Section 63.99 is amended by adding paragraph (a)(1) to read as follows:

§ 63.99 Delegated Federal authorities.

(a) * * *

(1) *Alabama.*

(i) [Reserved]

(ii) Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) may implement and enforce alternative requirements in the form of title V permit terms and conditions for International Paper Prattville Mill, Prattville, Alabama, for subpart MM of this part — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Chemical Recovery Combustion Sources at Kraft, Soda, Sulfite, and Stand-Alone Semichemical Pulp Mills. This action is contingent upon ADEM including, in title V permits, terms and conditions that are no less stringent than the Federal standard. In addition, the requirement applicable to the source remains the Federal section 112 requirement until EPA has approved the alternative permit terms and conditions and the final title V permit is issued.

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[FR Doc. 04-15721 Filed 7-9-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Research and Special Programs Administration****49 CFR Part 193**

[Docket No. RSPA-03-14456]

RIN 2137-AD80

Pipeline Safety: Liquefied Natural Gas Facilities; Clarifying and Updating Safety Standards

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; petition for reconsideration.

SUMMARY: In the *Federal Register* of March 10, 2004, RSPA published a final rule concerning liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities. The final rule clarified that regulations governing the fire protection of LNG facilities apply to facilities in existence or under

construction as of March 31, 2000. The final rule also updated a reference to fire protection provisions of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard, NFPA 59A, from the 1996 edition to the 2001 edition of that standard. The American Gas Association submitted a petition for reconsideration of the final rule, requesting changes in the fire protection requirements. The present action responds to that petition and clarifies requirements that involve provisions of NFPA 59A.

DATES: This action takes effect August 11, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: L. M. Furrow by phone at 202-366-4559, by fax at 202-366-4566, by mail at U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 7th St., SW., Washington, DC 20590, or by e-mail at buck.furrow@rspa.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

On March 10, 2004, RSPA published a final rule that, *inter alia*, amended regulations in 49 CFR part 193 related to the fire protection of LNG facilities used in gas pipeline transportation (69 FR 11330). An amendment to 49 CFR 193.2005 clarified that the fire protection requirements of part 193 (contained in § 193.2801, Fire protection) apply to LNG facilities existing on March 31, 2000. In addition, an amendment to § 193.2801 clarified which provisions of NFPA 59A, “Standard for the Production, Storage, and Handling of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)” were incorporated by reference. That amendment also provided an extended compliance time for actions to be taken regarding certain systems and personnel qualification. A separate amendment updated all part 193 references to the 1996 edition of NFPA 59A to the 2001 edition of that standard.

Petition for Reconsideration

By letter dated April 8, 2004, the American Gas Association, a trade association representing operators of LNG facilities, submitted a petition for reconsideration of the final rule as it relates to the fire protection requirements of § 193.2801. These requirements are as follows:

Section 193.2801 Fire protection.

Each operator must provide and maintain fire protection at LNG plants according to sections 9.1 through 9.7 and section 9.9 of NFPA 59A [2001 edition] * * *. However, LNG plants existing on March 31, 2000, need not comply with provisions on emergency shutdown systems, water delivery

systems, detection systems, and personnel qualification and training until September 12, 2005.

The following is our response to the petition:

As a general issue, the petitioner argues that there has not been sufficient opportunity to discuss retroactive application of sections 9.1 through 9.7 and section 9.9 of NFPA 59A. To demonstrate this point, the petitioner states that the retroactive issue was left open at the Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee (TPSSC) meeting on July 31, 2003, and that a workshop to clarify retroactive requirements, which was announced at the meeting, was not held.

On the contrary, the TPSSC did complete its consideration of the proposal to apply NFPA 59A (2001 edition) fire protection requirements retroactively. It voted unanimously that the requirements should apply only to new LNG facilities (transcript p. 76 (motion to apply only to new facilities clarified) and p. 86 (motion passed with unrelated amendments)). We regret that the demand for expeditious action on the final rule did not allow time for the workshop. However, we believe the public proceedings that led to the final rule provided ample opportunity for operators to express their views on retroactivity consistent with applicable legal requirements.

The petitioner also makes four specific requests. The first is that we remove the requirement that operators of LNG plants existing on March 31, 2000, provide and maintain fire protection according to sections 9.1 through 9.7 and section 9.9 of NFPA 59A (2001 edition). In support of this request, the petitioner contends that requiring operators to upgrade or retrofit their existing detection systems to meet the requirements of NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code, 1999 edition, regardless of existing conditions, is impracticable and could result in unnecessary equipment or system changes.

Under the final rule, such arbitrary upgrading or retrofitting is not mandatory. Compliance with NFPA 72 is governed by section 9.3.4 of NFPA 59A, which reads:

The detection systems determined from the evaluation in 9.1.2 shall be designed, installed, and maintained in accordance with NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code, or NFPA 1221, Standard for the Installation, Maintenance, and Use of Public Fire Service Communication Systems, as applicable.

Under section 9.1.2, operators have to determine the type, quantity, and location of equipment necessary for the