

and benching requirements, pictorial examples of shoring and shielding devices, timber tables, hydraulic shoring tables and section charts that provide a graphic summary of the requirements contained in the Standard.

On August 21, 2002, OSHA published a **Federal Register** document requesting public comments on the Excavations Standard and, specifically, on all issues raised by section 610 of the RFA and section 5 of Executive Order 12866 (67 FR 54103). The Regulatory Review summarizes the public comments and responds to them, and makes the following major findings:

- There is a continued need for the Standard. The annual number of trenching and excavation fatalities has declined from an estimated 90 fatalities per year prior to the enactment of the 1989 Standard, to approximately 70 per year since 1990.

This 22% reduction is even more impressive given the 20% real increase in construction activity over this period. Therefore, in relation to increased construction activity, fatalities have been reduced by more than 40%.

Although the Standard has improved safety, it remains needed in light of the ongoing occurrence of related fatalities, most of which result from violations of the Standard. OSHA intends to expand outreach and maintain enforcement to further reduce fatalities.

- The Standard does not impose an unnecessary or disproportionate burden on small business or on industry in general. The cost of protective systems has decreased by 10 percent in real dollars between 1990 and 2001. The number of small businesses engaged in excavation activity has increased, and the percentage of excavation work done by small business has increased. Real construction activity has increased.

- There is no indication that employers are unable to comply due to the complexity of the revised Standard. Nonetheless, public comments suggested some ways in which the Standard might be simplified or clarified (although some argued that any changes would only serve to confuse and discourage those who now understand and follow the Standard). The expanded outreach will address these matters.

- In general, the Standard does not overlap, duplicate, or conflict with other state or Federal rules. Several commenters, however, identified a possible conflict between the Excavations Standard and OSHA's standard for confined spaces. OSHA will address this issue in its future rulemaking for confined spaces in construction.

- Economic and technological trends have not reduced the need for the Standard. However, the development of so-called "trenchless" technologies (e.g., directional boring machines) has added a new dimension to excavation work (including additional hazards) that OSHA will monitor.

- Public comments contained some specific suggestions for how the Standard could be made more effective, although the comments were divided as to whether or not the Standard should be modified. In light of the effectiveness of the Standard, the certainty it has created, and limited regulatory resources, major modifications are not of high priority.

- The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommended that OSHA amend the Excavations Standard to require employers to notify appropriate authorities after excavation activities create a gas leak or leak of other hazardous substances. Since then, the "Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act (PIPES) of 2006" has been enacted. Section 2 of PIPES requires all persons (including employers) engaged in demolition, excavation, tunneling, or construction to immediately call 911 if: (1) They damage a pipeline that may endanger life or cause serious bodily harm or damage to property; and (2) such damage results in the escape of flammable, toxic, or corrosive gas or liquid. OSHA will monitor the implementation of PIPES and consider whether amending the Excavations Standard as suggested by NTSB is necessary and appropriate.

- The Standard remains consistent with the President's priorities to the extent that it has produced the intended benefits, a reduction in trenching and excavation fatalities and injuries, while not causing negative economic effects.

Based on the findings of this review, OSHA finds that the Excavations Standard should be continued. OSHA also believes that further increases in safety might be achieved through increased outreach and training.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 19th day of March, 2007.

Edwin G. Foulke, Jr.,

Assistant Secretary of Labor.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R05-OAR-2006-0774; FRL-8284-6]

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is proposing to approve revisions to Indiana's State Implementation Plan (SIP) submitted on August 25, 2006, revising its existing emission reporting rule to be consistent with the emission statement program requirements for stationary sources in the Clean Air Act (CAA). Indiana held public hearings on the submittal on December 7, 2005, and March 1, 2006.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 30, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-R05-OAR-2006-0774, by one of the following methods:

1. <http://www.regulations.gov>: Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.

2. *E-mail:* mooney.john@epa.gov.

3. *Fax:* (312)886-5824.

4. *Mail:* John M. Mooney, Chief, Criteria Pollutant Section, Air Programs Branch (AR-18J), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

5. *Hand Delivery:* John M. Mooney, Chief, Criteria Pollutant Section, Air Programs Branch (AR-18J), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Regional Office normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information. The Regional Office official hours of business are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. excluding Federal holidays.

Please see the direct final rule which is located in the Rules section of this **Federal Register** for detailed instructions on how to submit comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Charles Hatten, Environmental Engineer, Criteria Pollutant Section, Air Programs Branch (AR-18J), Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, (312) 886-6031, Hatten.Charles@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 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 detailed rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no adverse comments are received in response to this rule, 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. 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. For additional information, see the direct final rule which is located in the Rules section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: February 27, 2007.

Steve Rothblatt,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 5.

[FR Doc. E7-5654 Filed 3-28-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R05-OAR-2006-0976; FRL-8292-9]

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Control of Gasoline Volatility

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is proposing to approve a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the State of Ohio on February 14, 2006 and October 6, 2006, establishing a lower Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) fuel requirement for gasoline distributed in the Cincinnati and Dayton 8-hour ozone nonattainment areas. Ohio has developed these fuel requirements to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) in accordance with the requirements of the Clean Air Act (CAA). EPA is proposing to approve Ohio's fuel requirements into the Ohio SIP because EPA has found that the requirements are necessary for the Cincinnati and Dayton areas to achieve the 8-hour ozone national

ambient air quality standard (NAAQS). This action is being taken under section 110 of the CAA.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 30, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-R05-OAR-2006-0976, by one of the following methods:

- *www.regulations.gov*: Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *E-mail*: mooney.john@epa.gov.
- *Fax*: (312) 886-5824.
- *Mail*: John M. Mooney, Chief, Criteria Pollutant Section, Air Programs Branch (AR-18J), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.
- *Hand Delivery*: John M. Mooney, Chief, Criteria Pollutant Section, Air Programs Branch (AR-18J), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Regional Office normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information. The Regional Office official hours of business are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. excluding Federal holidays.

Instructions: Direct your comments to Docket ID No. EPA-R05-OAR-2006-0976. EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change and may be made available online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected through <http://www.regulations.gov> or e-mail. The <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. If you send an e-mail comment directly to EPA without going through <http://www.regulations.gov> your e-mail address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available on the Internet. If you submit an electronic comment, EPA recommends that you include your name and other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD-ROM you submit. 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. Electronic files should avoid the use of special characters, any form of encryption, and be free of any defects or viruses. For additional instructions on submitting comments, go to Section I of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

Docket: All documents in the docket are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, e.g., CBI or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, will be publicly available only in hard copy. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically in <http://www.regulations.gov> or in hard copy at the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, Air and Radiation Division, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604. This facility is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. We recommend that you telephone Francisco J. Acevedo, Environmental Protection Specialist, at (312) 886-6061 before visiting the Region 5 office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Francisco J. Acevedo, Environmental Protection Specialist, Criteria Pollutant Section, Air Programs Branch (AR-18J), Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, (312) 886-6061, acevedo.francisco@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Throughout this document whenever "we," "us," or "our" is used, we mean EPA. This supplementary information section is arranged as follows:

- I. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Comments for EPA?
- II. Description of the SIP Revision and EPA's Action.
 - A. What Is the Background for This Action?
 - B. What Is Reid Vapor Pressure?
 - C. What Are the Relevant Clean Air Act Requirements?
 - D. How Has the State Met the Test Under Section 211(c)(4)(C)?
 - E. What Are the Relevant Energy Policy Act Requirements?
 - F. How Has the State Met the Relevant Energy Policy Act Requirements?
 - G. Why Is EPA Taking This Action?
 - H. What Other Relevant Materials Has the State Submitted?
- III. Proposed Action
- IV. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

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

A. Submitting CBI. Do not submit this information to EPA through <http://www.regulations.gov>