ACTION: Release.

AGENCY: Federal Register.

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

[FR Doc. 2011–21499 Filed 8–22–11; 8:45 am]

ADMINISTRATIVE PROTECTOR

[FR–9455–8]

State Program Requirements; Approval of Application for Program Revision to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program; Alaska

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On August 11, 2011, the Regional Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 (EPA), approved the application by the State of Alaska to revise Alaska’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program pursuant to section 402 of the Clean Water Act (CWA or “the Act”). The revised State program, called the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES), includes an implementation plan that transfers the administration of specific program components from EPA to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) in four phases. Phases I–III have been transferred from the EPA to ADEC. In March 2011, ADEC made a submission for approval for a one year extension of the Phase IV of the APDES program, which includes oil and gas, cooling water intakes and dischargers, munitions and all other remaining facilities not previously transferred in Phases I–III.

The EPA approved the one year extension for Phase IV. Phase IV will transfer to ADEC four years from the date of program approval, or October 31, 2012. Upon approval of the program revision, the Regional Administrator notified the State and signed the modified Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between EPA and ADEC. The EPA will suspend issuance of applicable NPDES permits in Alaska in accordance with the extension for transfer of NPDES program authority for Phase IV.

DATES: Pursuant to 40 CFR 123.62(b), the APDES program revision was approved and became effective on August 11, 2011.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To obtain further information or copies of related documents, contact Hanh Shaw, Office of Water and Watersheds, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, 1200 6th Avenue, Suite 900, Mail Stop OWW–130, Seattle, WA 98101–3140, (206) 553–0171, shaw.hanh@epa.gov or Theresa Svancara, theresa.svancara@alaska.gov, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, P.O. Box 111800, 410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 303, Juneau, AK 99811–1800, (907) 465–5257, theresa.svancara@alaska.gov. The ADEC’s modified program description, the modified MOA related to the approved APDES program revision and the EPA’s responses to comments can be viewed and downloaded from the EPA Web site http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/NPDES+Permits/apdes and from the ADEC Web site http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/npdes/index.htm.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 402 of the CWA created the NPDES program under which the EPA may issue permits for the point source discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States under conditions required by the Act. Section 402 also provides that the EPA may approve a State to administer an equivalent state NPDES program. The EPA approved the APDES program application on October 31, 2008. The APDES program application was described in the Federal Register (73 FR 34746) published on June 18, 2008. The approved program authorized ADEC to assume responsibility for the NPDES program in four phases over three years from the date of APDES program approval. ADEC currently has NPDES permit administration authority for Phases I–III. These three phases cover the following major components: Phase I includes domestic discharges (excluding the bio-solids program), timber harvesting, seafood processing facilities and hatcheries; Phase II includes federal facilities, stormwater program, pretreatment program, and miscellaneous non-domestic discharges; and Phase III includes mining. The original ADEC phasing schedule authorized the transfer of Phase IV three years from APDES program approval, or October 31, 2011. Phase IV components include oil and gas, cooling water intakes and dischargers, munitions, and all other remaining facilities not previously transferred in Phases I–III.

A. Scope of APDES Program Revision

ADEC proposed a delay of the Phase IV transfer for one year, or until October 31, 2012, by letter dated March 14, 2011. ADEC also submitted a modified APDES program description and a modified MOA related to the APDES program revision. The only changes proposed to the program description related to the one year extension for the transfer of the Phase IV program component and updating of the Phase IV permit list. The modifications incorporated the proposed one year extension of the Phase IV transfer.

The APDES program revision was described in the Federal Register (76 FR 28027) published on May 13, 2011. Notice of the program revision was published in two Alaska newspapers. A public comment period was held from May 13–June 27, 2011. A public hearing on the program revision was held in Anchorage, Alaska on June 13, 2011. Additionally, the EPA held government-to-government consultation teleconferences on April 26, 27 and 28, 2011 for interested tribes.

B. Public Comments

The EPA received comments concerning the APDES program revision, including comments in support of the Phase IV extension. The EPA did not receive any comments urging the EPA to disapprove the requested program revision. One commenter did not support a time extension for any greater length of time. A Tribal association suggested that the EPA consider adopting stipulations related to jurisdiction issues and authorities of federally-recognized tribal governments in Alaska. All public comments are addressed in the EPA response to comments document dated August 2011, which can be viewed and downloaded from the EPA Web site http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/NPDES+Permits/apdes.

C. Notice of Decision

I hereby provide public notice that the EPA has taken final action approving the APDES program revision extending...
the Phase IV transfer date to October 31, 2012.

Authority: This action is taken under the authority of Section 402 of the Clean Water Act as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1342.

Dated: August 16, 2011.

Dennis McLerran,
Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10.

[FR Doc. 2011–21538 Filed 8–22–11; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY


Access by EPA Contractors to Confidential Business Information (CBI) Related to the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA’s Office of Atmospheric Programs plans to authorize the contractors named in this notice to access information that will be submitted to EPA under the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program that may be designated or claimed as confidential business information. Contractor access to this information will begin on August 29, 2011.

DATES: EPA will accept comments on this Notice through August 29, 2011.

ADDRESSES: You may submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OAR–2011–0621 by any of the following methods:


E-mail: MRR_Corrections@epa.gov. Include Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OAR–2011–0621 in the subject line of the message.

Fax: (202) 566–9744.


Hand/Courier Delivery: EPA Docket Center, Public Reading Room, EPA West Building, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Carole Cook, Climate Change Division, Office of Atmospheric Programs (MC–6207j), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (202) 343–9263; fax number: (202) 343–2342; e-mail address: GHGReportingRule@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background and Comment Information

A. Does this notice apply to me?

This notice is directed to the general public. However, this action may be of particular interest to parties subject to the requirements of 40 CFR part 98. If you have further questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular party, please contact the person listed in FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

B. How can I get copies of this document and other related information?

1. Electronically

EPA has included a public docket for this Federal Register notice under Docket EPA–HQ–OAR–2011–0621. All documents in the docket are available at http://www.regulations.gov. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, such as confidential business information (CBI) or other information for which disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain materials, such as copyrighted material, will only be available in hard copy at the EPA Docket Center.

2. EPA Docket Center

Materials listed under Docket EPA–HQ–OAR–2011–0621 will be available for public viewing at the EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), EPA West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Reading Room is (202) 566–1744, and the telephone number for the Air Docket is (202) 566–1742.

B. What should I consider as I prepare my comments to EPA?

1. Submitting CBI in Response to This Notice

Clearly mark the part or all of the comments that you claim to be CBI submitted in response to this notice. For CBI information in a disk or CD ROM that you mail to EPA, 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 claimed as CBI. In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes 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 public docket. Information marked as CBI will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2.

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.

2. Tips for Preparing Your Comments

When submitting comments, remember to:

Identify this Notice by docket number and any other identifying information (e.g., subject heading, Federal Register date and page number).