the same time) at a particular date in the future (*e.g.,* after such date, all sequence listings filed for the first time in an application (including a continuation, continuation-in-part, and a divisional) would have to be filed in compliance with that new standard).

(a) The Office invites comments regarding how much time is likely to be needed for applicants to transition to the XML standard (with the assumption that sequence listing authoring software will be publicly available).

(b) Given the divergent requirements of the proposed XML standard and ST.25 as described above, the Office invites comments on what difficulties an applicant should anticipate if national or regional offices required compliance with different standards (*i.e.,* ST.25 and XML). Will the existence of separate authoring tools for each of the standards mitigate such difficulties?

Dated: May 9, 2012.

David J. Kappos,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2012–11755 Filed 5–14–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA–R03–OAR–2012–0292; FRL–9671–8]

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Permit To Construct Exemptions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA proposes to approve the State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the State of Maryland pertaining to sources which are exempt from preconstruction permitting requirements under Maryland's New Source Review (NSR) program. 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 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 If EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule.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 June 14, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID Number EPA–R03–OAR–2012–0292 by one of the following methods:

A. *www.regulations.gov.* Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.

B. *Email: cox.kathleen@epa.gov.*

C. *Mail:* EPA–R03–OAR–2012–0292, Ms. Kathleen Cox, Associate Director, Office of Permits and Air Toxics, Mailcode 3AP10, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103.

D. *Hand Delivery:* At the previously-listed EPA Region III address. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

Instructions: Direct your comments to Docket ID No. EPA–R03–OAR–2012–0292. EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change, and may be made available online at *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 *www.regulations.gov* or email. The *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 email comment directly to EPA without going through *www.regulations.gov,* your email 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.

Docket: All documents in the electronic docket are listed in the *www.regulations.gov* index. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, i.e., CBI or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the Internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically in *www.regulations.gov* or in hard copy during normal business hours at the Air Protection Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103. Copies of the State submittal are available at the Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 705, Baltimore, Maryland 21230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Talley, (215) 814–2117, or by email at *talley.david@epa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For further information, please see the information provided in the direct final action, also entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Permit to Construct Exemptions,'' that is located in the ''Rules and Regulations'' section of this **Federal Register** publication.

Dated: May 2, 2012.

W.C. Early,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region III.

[FR Doc. 2012–11625 Filed 5–14–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

45 CFR Part 171

Nationwide Health Information Network: Conditions for Trusted Exchange

AGENCY: Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Request for information.

SUMMARY: The nationwide health information network is defined as the set of standards, services, and policies that enable secure health information exchange over the Internet. Enacted in February 2009, the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act requires the