

9. Civil Justice Reform

This rule meets applicable standards in sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform, to minimize litigation, eliminate ambiguity, and reduce burden.

10. Protection of Children

We have analyzed this rule under Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. This rule is not an economically significant rule and does not create an environmental risk to health or risk to safety that may disproportionately affect children.

11. Indian Tribal Governments

This rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it does 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.

12. Energy Effects

This action is not a "significant energy action" under Executive Order 13211, Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use.

13. Technical Standards

This rule does not use technical standards. Therefore, we did not consider the use of voluntary consensus standards.

14. Environment

We have analyzed this rule under Department of Homeland Security Management Directive 023-01 and Commandant Instruction M16475.1D, which guide the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321-4370f), and have determined that this action is one of a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. This rule involves the establishment of a temporary safety zone. This rule is categorically excluded from further review under paragraph 34(g) of Figure 2-1 of the Commandant Instruction. An environmental analysis checklist supporting this determination and a Categorical Exclusion Determination are available in the docket where indicated under **ADDRESSES**. We seek any comments or information that may lead to the

discovery of a significant environmental impact from this rule.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 165 as follows:

PART 165—REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS AREA

■ 1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1231; 46 U.S.C. Chapter 701, 3306, 3703; 50 U.S.C. 191, 195; 33 CFR 1.05-1, 6.04-1, 6.04-6, 160.5; Public Law 107-295, 116 Stat. 2064; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1.

■ 2. Add § 165.T01-0538 to read as follows:

§ 165.T01-0538 Safety Zone; Newburgh Beacon Swim, Newburgh, Hudson River, NY.

(a) *Regulated Area.* The following area is a regulated area: All navigable waters of the Hudson River, NY in the vicinity of Newburgh, NY bound by the following points: 41°30'33.67" N 073°0'20.09" W; thence to 41°30'29.17" N 073°59'06.89" W; thence to 41°30'11.53" N 073°59'14.83" W; thence to 41°30'15.15" N 073°0'17.80" W; thence north along the shoreline to the point of the beginning. This area is approximately 1500 yards south of the Newburgh-Beacon Bridges.

(b) *Effective Date.* This rule is effective from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. on July 21, 2012.

(c) *Definitions.* The following definitions apply to this section:

(1) *Designated Representative.* A "designated representative" is any Coast Guard commissioned, warrant or petty officer of the U.S. Coast Guard who has been designated by the Captain of the Port Sector New York (COTP), to act on his or her behalf. The designated representative may be on an official patrol vessel or may be on shore and will communicate with vessels via VHF-FM radio or loudhailer. In addition, members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary may be present to inform vessel operators of this regulation.

(2) *Official Patrol Vessels.* Official patrol vessels may consist of any Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, state, or local law enforcement vessels assigned or approved by the COTP.

(3) *Spectators.* All persons and vessels not registered with the event sponsor as participants or official patrol vessels.

(d) *Regulations.*

(1) The general regulations contained in 33 CFR 165.23, as well as the following regulations, apply.

(2) No vessels, except for event coordinators and support vessels, will be allowed to transit the safety zone without the permission of the COTP. Vessels not associated with the event that are permitted to enter the regulated areas shall maintain a separation of at least 100 yards from the participants.

(3) All persons and vessels shall comply with the instructions of the COTP or the designated representative. Upon being hailed by a U.S. Coast Guard vessel by siren, radio, flashing light, or other means, the operator of a vessel shall proceed as directed. Failure to comply with a lawful direction may result in expulsion from the regulated area, citation for failure to comply, or both.

(4) Vessel operators desiring to enter or operate within the regulated area shall contact the COTP or the designated representative via VHF channel 16 or 718-354-4353 (Sector New York command center) to obtain permission to do so.

(5) Spectators or other vessels shall not anchor, block, loiter, or impede the transit of event participants or official patrol vessels in the regulated areas during the effective dates and times, unless authorized by COTP or the designated representative.

(6) The COTP or the designated representative may delay or terminate any marine event in this subpart at any time it is deemed necessary to ensure the safety of life or property.

Dated: June 27, 2012.

G.A. Loebel,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port New York.

[FR Doc. 2012-17085 Filed 7-12-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 0

RIN 2900-AO33

Core Values and Characteristics of the Department

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document amends the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) regulations concerning the standards of ethical conduct and related responsibilities of its employees by adding a new subpart for VA's Core Values and Characteristics. These

foundational values and organizational characteristics define VA employees and articulate what VA stands for, respectively, and they are a set of guidelines that will be applied Department-wide to all VA employees. This final rule establishes VA's Core Values and Characteristics, and ensures their proper application to the VA workforce.

DATES: *Effective Date:* July 13, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert McFetridge, Office of Regulation Policy and Management (02REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-4902. (This is not a toll-free number.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This rulemaking amends 38 CFR part 0 to establish VA regulations regarding VA's core values for its employees and the desired characteristics for the organization. These regulations set into place internal guidelines to which VA expects its employees to adhere in their interactions with each other and with veterans, their families, and their caretakers. The Core Values and Characteristics are the product of a 2-year collaborative and comprehensive development process, which was motivated by a desire to unite the entire VA workforce under one set of guiding principles. VA recognizes that every single worker plays a critical role in supporting the overall strategic vision and mission of the agency and also contributes to its professional reputation as an organization. Beginning in 2009, participating representatives from the many different VA organizations provided considerable input into the creation of the Core Values and Characteristics. VA also considered input from its workforce through surveys, feedback, and discussion. Based on these activities, and the recommendations of the different panels and groups, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs approved the guidelines, and on June 20, 2011, he announced them to the entire agency.

The Core Values define VA employees and describe how VA may be distinguished from other organizations. They define VA's culture and underscore its commitment to veterans. These Core Values are: Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence. The Values represent VA's beliefs and provide a baseline for the standards of behavior expected of all VA employees. Together, the first letters of the Core Values spell "I CARE," a motto which should be adopted by every member of the VA workforce.

The Core Characteristics define what VA stands for and how it would like to be recognized as an organization. They help guide the execution of VA's mission, shape its strategy, and influence resource allocation and other key decisions made within VA. These Characteristics are: Trustworthy, Accessible, Quality, Innovative, Agile, and Integrated. They are a common set of principles around which VA's actions are organized and describe the traits all VA organizations should possess and demonstrate. The VA Characteristics are relevant today, but also forward-looking. They identify the qualities needed to successfully accomplish VA's current missions and also support the ongoing transformation to a 21st Century organization.

The adoption of these Core Values and Characteristics will not only reaffirm practices already used by many VA employees, but it will also establish one set of guidelines applicable across the entire VA workforce. They are not entirely new concepts, and they are in large part derived from many values VA has demonstrated throughout its existence. Codifying these principles will ensure they receive the proper emphasis at all levels within VA, are clearly understood by the workforce, and, most importantly, become an enduring part of the VA culture. The "I CARE" logo will be prominently displayed in all VA facilities, as the agency wishes to use these principles to send a strong signal to veterans, family members, and other beneficiaries that the agency takes pride in what it does and cares deeply about its mission. The Core Values and Characteristics demonstrate that VA is a "people-centric" organization.

In order to maintain these Core Values and Characteristics over time, VA may periodically review whether the guidelines are achieving their intended purpose and remain relevant in the current environment. VA is open to revising the Core Values and Characteristics to adapt them to changing times, as necessary. They are not linked to any particular person or group, so although people come and go within VA all the time, the Core Values and Characteristics are meant to endure. There are no immediate plans to change existing formal processes for evaluating employees based on the Core Values and Characteristics. However, in Fiscal Year 2012, VA will be implementing a formalized program to recognize the VA personnel and organizations which best exemplify the Core Values and Characteristics.

The current title of part 0, "Standards of ethical conduct and related

responsibilities," is being broadened to include the concept of "values" in the title. That addition reflects the inclusion of VA's Core Values and Characteristics as principles that are separate and distinct from the standards of ethical conduct for federal employees.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This document contains no provisions constituting a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3521).

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Secretary hereby certifies that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as they are defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601-612. This final rule does not affect any small entities. Therefore, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), this final rule is exempt from the initial and final regulatory flexibility analysis requirements of sections 603 and 604.

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563

Executive Order 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, when regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety, and other advantages; distributive impacts; and equity). Executive Order 13563 (Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review) emphasizes the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, reducing costs, harmonizing rules, and promoting flexibility. Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review) defines a "significant regulatory action," requiring review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) unless OMB waives such review, as "any regulatory action that is likely to result in a rule that may: (1) Have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more or adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities; (2) Create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency; (3) Materially alter the budgetary impact of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof; or (4) Raise novel legal or policy issues arising out of legal mandates, the President's priorities, or the principles set forth in this Executive Order."

The economic, interagency, budgetary, legal, and policy implications of this final rule have been examined and it has been determined not to be a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866.

Unfunded Mandates

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 requires, at 2 U.S.C. 1532, that agencies prepare an assessment of anticipated costs and benefits before issuing any rule that may result in the expenditure by State, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100 million or more (adjusted annually for inflation) in any given year. This final rule will have no such effect on State, local, and tribal governments, or on the private sector.

Administrative Procedure Act

This final rule establishes internal guidelines relating to agency practice or procedure and sets forth general statements of agency policy. Accordingly, this rule is exempt from the prior notice-and-comment and delayed-effective-date requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553. See 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A) and (d)(2).

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers

There are no Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance program numbers for this rule.

Signing Authority

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. John R. Gingrich, Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on July 5, 2012, for publication.

List of Subjects in 38 CFR Part 0

Conflict of interests, Employee ethics and related responsibilities, Government employees.

Dated: July 9, 2012.

Robert C. McFetridge,

Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 38 CFR part 0 is amended as follows:

PART 0—VALUES, STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT, AND RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES

■ 1. The authority citation for 38 CFR part 0 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 38 U.S.C. 501; see sections 201, 301, and 502(a) of E.O. 12674, 54 FR 15159, 3 CFR, 1989 Comp., p. 215 as modified by E.O. 12731, 55 FR 42547, 3 CFR, 1990 Comp., p. 306.

■ 2. Revise the heading of part 0 to read as set forth above.

Subparts A & B [Redesignated]

■ 3. Redesignate subparts A and B as subparts B and C, respectively.

■ 4. Add new subpart A to read as follows:

Subpart A—Core Values and Characteristics of the Department

Sec.
0.600 General.
0.601 Core Values.
0.602 Core Characteristics.

Subpart A—Core Values and Characteristics of the Department

§ 0.600 General.

This section describes the Core Values and Characteristics that serve as internal guidelines for employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). These Core Values and Characteristics define VA employees, articulate what VA stands for, and underscore its moral obligation to veterans, their families, and other beneficiaries. They are intended to establish one overarching set of guidelines that apply to all VA Administrations and staff offices, confirming the values already instilled in many VA employees and enforcing their commitment to provide the best service possible to veterans, their families, and their caretakers.

§ 0.601 Core Values.

VA's Core Values define VA employees. They describe the organization's culture and character, and serve as the foundation for the way VA employees should interact with each other, as well as with people outside the organization. They also serve as a common bond between all employees regardless of their grade, specialty area, or location. These Core Values are Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence. Together, the first letters of the Core Values spell "I CARE," and VA employees should adopt this motto and these Core Values in their day-to-day operations.

(a) *Integrity.* VA employees will act with high moral principle, adhere to the

highest professional standards, and maintain the trust and confidence of all with whom they engage.

(b) *Commitment.* VA employees will work diligently to serve veterans and other beneficiaries, be driven by an earnest belief in VA's mission, and fulfill their individual responsibilities and organizational responsibilities.

(c) *Advocacy.* VA employees will be truly veteran-centric by identifying, fully considering, and appropriately advancing the interests of veterans and other beneficiaries.

(d) *Respect.* VA employees will treat all those they serve and with whom they work with dignity and respect, and they will show respect to earn it.

(e) *Excellence.* VA employees will strive for the highest quality and continuous improvement, and be thoughtful and decisive in leadership, accountable for their actions, willing to admit mistakes, and rigorous in correcting them.

§ 0.602 Core Characteristics.

While Core Values define VA employees, the Core Characteristics define what VA stands for and what VA strives to be as an organization. These are aspirational goals that VA wants its employees, veterans, and the American people to associate with the Department and with its workforce. These Core characteristics describe the traits all VA organizations should possess and demonstrate, and they identify the qualities needed to successfully accomplish today's missions and also support the ongoing transformation to a 21st Century VA. These characteristics are:

(a) *Trustworthy.* VA earns the trust of those it serves, every day, through the actions of its employees. They provide care, benefits, and services with compassion, dependability, effectiveness, and transparency.

(b) *Accessible.* VA engages and welcomes veterans and other beneficiaries, facilitating their use of the entire array of its services. Each interaction will be positive and productive.

(c) *Quality.* VA provides the highest standard of care and services to veterans and beneficiaries while managing the cost of its programs and being efficient stewards of all resources entrusted to it by the American people. VA is a model of unrivalled excellence due to employees who are empowered, trusted by their leaders, and respected for their competence and dedication.

(d) *Innovative.* VA prizes curiosity and initiative, encourages creative contributions from all employees, seeks continuous improvement, and adapts to

remain at the forefront in knowledge, proficiency, and capability to deliver the highest standard of care and services to all of the people it serves.

(e) *Agile*. VA anticipates and adapts quickly to current challenges and new requirements by continuously assessing the environment in which it operates and devising solutions to better serve veterans, other beneficiaries, and Service members.

(f) *Integrated*. VA links care and services across the Department; other federal, state, and local agencies; partners; and Veterans Services Organizations to provide useful and understandable programs to veterans and other beneficiaries. VA's relationship with the Department of Defense is unique, and VA will nurture it for the benefit of veterans and Service members.

[FR Doc. 2012-17069 Filed 7-12-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R03-OAR-2011-0924; FRL-9698-2]

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Nonattainment New Source Review; Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5})

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is approving a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. These revisions pertaining to Pennsylvania's nonattainment New Source Review (NSR) program incorporate preconstruction permitting regulations for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) into the Pennsylvania SIP. EPA is approving these revisions in accordance with the requirements of the Clean Air Act (CAA).

DATES: This final rule is effective on August 13, 2012.

ADDRESSES: EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket ID EPA-R03-OAR-2011-0924. All documents in the docket are listed in the www.regulations.gov Web site. Although listed in the electronic docket, some information is not publicly available, i.e., confidential business information (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 through www.regulations.gov or in hard copy for public inspection 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 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Air Quality Control, P.O. Box 84268, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gerallyn Duke, (215) 814-2084, or by email at duke.gerallyn@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Throughout this document, whenever "we," "us," or "our" is used, we mean EPA. On March 29, 2012 (77 FR 18987), EPA published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPR) for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The NPR proposed approval of a SIP revision pertaining to Pennsylvania's nonattainment New Source Review (NSR) program which incorporates preconstruction permitting regulations for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) into the Pennsylvania SIP. The formal SIP revision was submitted by Pennsylvania on September 23, 2011.

The purpose of this SIP is to incorporate the nonattainment preconstruction permitting requirements for PM_{2.5} that are set forth in the federal rules, "Implementation of the New Source Review (NSR) Program for Particulate Matter Less than 2.5 Micrometers (PM_{2.5})" (NSR PM_{2.5} Rule), which was published on May 16, 2008 (73 FR 28321).

II. Summary of SIP Revision

The SIP revision submitted by Pennsylvania consists of amendments to the general provisions of 25 Pa. Code Chapter 121 and major nonattainment NSR permitting regulations of 25 Pa. Code Chapter 127. The amendments establish the major source thresholds, significant emission rates and offset ratios for PM_{2.5} and its precursors. They also establish nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and sulfur dioxide (SO₂) as precursors to PM_{2.5}, and establish procedures for interpollutant trading for offsets, pursuant to the NSR PM_{2.5} Rule. Clarifying amendments for Chapter 127 and minor editorial changes also are made. The amendments submitted by Pennsylvania for approval into the SIP became effective on September 3, 2011.

Other specific requirements of the regulations and the rationale for EPA's proposed action are explained in the NPR and will not be restated here. One public comment was received on the NPR. The comment did not directly relate to the SIP revision so no response to the comment is necessary.

III. Final Action

EPA is approving the September 23, 2011 SIP revision to incorporate federal preconstruction permitting requirements for PM_{2.5} and its precursors in nonattainment areas along with clarifying amendments, at 25 Pa. Code Section 121.1 and 25 Pa. Code Chapter 127, subchapter E, as a revision to the Pennsylvania SIP.

IV. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

A. General Requirements

Under the CAA, the Administrator is required to approve a SIP submission that complies with the provisions of the CAA and applicable Federal regulations. 42 U.S.C. 7410(k); 40 CFR 52.02(a). Thus, in reviewing SIP submissions, EPA's role is to approve state choices, provided that they meet the criteria of the CAA. Accordingly, this action merely approves state law as meeting Federal requirements and does not impose additional requirements beyond those imposed by state law. For that reason, this action:

- Is not a "significant regulatory action" subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993);
- Does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*);
- Is certified as not having a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*);
- Does not contain any unfunded mandate or significantly or uniquely affect small governments, as described in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-4);
- Does not have Federalism implications as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999);
- Is not an economically significant regulatory action based on health or safety risks subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997);
- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to Executive Order 13211 (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001);
- Is not subject to requirements of Section 12(d) of the National