designated as Class I federal areas, mandated by Congress to receive heightened protection. NGS is subject to the BART requirement of the CAA and the Regional Haze Rule based on its age and its effects on visibility in Class I areas.

On February 5, 2013, EPA proposed a BART determination to require NGS to achieve a nearly 80 percent reduction of its current overall NOX emission rate. EPA also proposed an alternative to BART that would provide flexibility to NGS in the schedule for the installation of new post-combustion control equipment. EPA’s proposed alternative to BART credits NGS for its early and voluntary installation of new combustion controls to reduce NOX emissions beginning in 2009 and therefore achieves greater reasonable progress than BART.

In recognition that there may be other approaches that could result in equivalent or better visibility benefits than BART, as well as the singular importance of NGS to the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, and other numerous tribes located in Arizona, EPA also outlined a framework for evaluating other alternatives to provide greater flexibility than EPA’s proposed alternative to BART. EPA requested comment on Alternatives 2 and 3 that provide until 2025 or 2026 for compliance but would require the owners of NGS to implement additional emission reductions in order to assure greater reasonable progress than would otherwise be achieved under BART.

EPA encouraged a robust public discussion of our proposed BART determination and alternative, as well as Alternatives 2 and 3, and recognized the potential need for a supplemental proposal if Alternatives 2 or 3, or other approaches developed by other parties, are identified as meeting the needs of stakeholders and meeting the requirements of the CAA.

On February 15, 2013, Salt River Project (SRP), co-owner and operator of NGS, requested a 90-day extension of the public comment period. SRP stated that identifying and analyzing alternatives and discussing options with interested parties would require a significant amount of time. On February 21, 2013, the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) submitted a similar request for a 90-day extension of the comment period. On March 1, 2013, the Navajo Nation also requested a 90-day extension of the comment period in order to allow the Navajo Nation the time and opportunity to participate with NGS owners and other stakeholders in examining the feasibility of additional alternatives, including Alternatives 2 and 3.

II. Today’s Action
EPA recognizes that the stakeholder process, to develop viable alternatives to BART that provide additional flexibility to the owners of NGS while achieving more emission reductions to assure greater reasonable progress than BART, will require a significant amount of time. EPA also recognizes the critical importance of active participation by the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and other affected tribes located in Arizona in the development of alternatives to BART. Therefore, EPA is extending the comment period by an additional 90 days.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 49
Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Air pollution control, Indians, Intergovernmental relations, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: March 8, 2013.
Jared Blumenfeld,
Regional Administrator, Region 9.
[FR Doc. 2013–06196 Filed 3–18–13; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
40 CFR Part 52

Appraisal and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Cleveland-Akron-Lorain and Columbus 1997 8-hour Ozone Maintenance Plan Revisions to Approved Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is proposing to approve the request by Ohio to revise the

2 The CAWCD manages the Central Arizona Project, a water delivery system that relies on electricity from NGS to pump surface water from the Colorado River for use by numerous tribes in Arizona, as well as agricultural, municipal, and industrial water users. Please refer to 78 FR 8274 (February 5, 2013) for additional information about CAWCD and its relationship to NGS and tribes located in Arizona.

1 Please refer to 78 FR 8274 (February 5, 2013) for additional background information related to NGS, regional haze and the protection of visibility at mandatory Class I federal areas, and the statutory and regulatory framework for addressing visibility impairment from sources located in Indian country.

Cleveland-Akron-Lorain and Columbus, Ohio, 1997 8-hour ozone maintenance air quality State Implementation Plans (SIPs) under the Clean Air Act to replace the previously approved motor vehicle emissions budgets with budgets developed using EPA’s Motor Vehicle Emissions Simulator (MOVES) emissions model. Ohio submitted the SIP revision requests to EPA on October 30, 2012, and December 12, 2012, respectively.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 18, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–R05–OAR–2012–0884 for Cleveland-Akron-Lorain or EPA–R05–OAR–2012–0970 for Columbus, by one of the following methods:

1. www.regulations.gov: Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
2. Email: blakley.pamela@epa.gov
3. Fax: (312) 692–2450
5. Hand Delivery: Pamela Blakley, Chief, Control Strategies 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: Anthony Maietta, Environmental Scientist, Control Strategies Section, Air Programs Branch (AR–18J), Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, (312) 353–8777, maietta.anthony@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. For further information, please see the direct final rule, of the same title, which is located in the Rules section of this Federal Register.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: La Weeda Ward, Air Division (AIR–1), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, 600 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1460, Los Angeles, CA 90017. 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For further information, please see the direct final rule, of the same title, which is located in the Rules section of this Federal Register. EPA is clarifying that the “Imperial Valley planning area” PM10 nonattainment area is that portion of Imperial County that is defined as follows: Commencing at the southwest corner of Imperial County and extending north along the Imperial-San Diego County line to the northwest corner of Imperial County; then east along the Imperial-Riverside County line to the point of intersection of the eastern boundary line of Hydrologic Unit #18100200 1; then southeasterly along the eastern boundary line of Hydrologic Unit #18100200 to the Imperial County-Mexico Border; then west along the Imperial County-Mexico Border to the point of the beginning.

EPA is publishing this action as a direct final rule without prior proposal because EPA views this action as noncontroversial and anticipates no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for this action is set forth in the preamble to the direct final rule. If EPA receives no adverse comments, EPA will not take further action on this proposed rule.

If EPA receives adverse comments, EPA will withdraw the direct final rule, and it will not take effect. EPA will address all public comments in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. EPA will not institute a second comment period on this action. Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

Dated: March 6, 2013.

Susan Hedman,
Regional Administrator, Region 5.

[FR Doc. 2013–06199 Filed 3–18–13; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 81

Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; State of California; Imperial Valley Planning Area for PM10 Clarification of Nonattainment Area Boundary

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is proposing to clarify the description of the Imperial Valley planning area, an area designated as nonattainment for the national ambient air quality standard for particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of a nominal 10 microns or less (PM10). EPA is not proposing to change the boundaries of the PM10 area or the status of the area as a “serious” PM10 nonattainment area but is proposing to clarify the description of this partial county area in the Code of Federal Regulations.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before April 18, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–R09–OAR–2013–0135 by one of the following methods:
2. Email to ward.laweeda@epa.gov; or
3. Mail or delivery to La Weeda Ward, Air Division (AIR–1), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, 600 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1460, Los Angeles, CA 90017. 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: La Weeda Ward, Air Division (AIR–1), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, 600 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1460, Los Angeles, CA 90017, telephone number (213) 244–1812, or email ward.laweeda@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For further information, please see the direct final rule, of the same title, which is located in the Rules section of this Federal Register. EPA is clarifying that the “Imperial Valley planning area” PM10 nonattainment area is that portion of Imperial County that is defined as follows: Commencing at the southwest corner of Imperial County and extending north along the Imperial-San Diego County line to the northwest corner of Imperial County; then east along the Imperial-Riverside County line to the point of intersection of the eastern boundary line of Hydrologic Unit #18100200 1; then southeasterly along the eastern boundary line of Hydrologic Unit #18100200 to the Imperial County-Mexico Border; then west along the Imperial County-Mexico Border to the point of the beginning.

EPA is publishing this action as a direct final rule without prior proposal because EPA views this action as noncontroversial and anticipates no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for this action is set forth in the preamble to the direct final rule. If EPA receives no adverse comments, EPA will not take further action on this proposed rule.

If EPA receives adverse comments, EPA will withdraw the direct final rule, and it will not take effect. EPA will address all public comments in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. EPA will not institute a second comment period on this action. Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

Dated: March 6, 2013.

Jared Blumenfeld,
Regional Administrator, Region IX.

[FR Doc. 2013–06199 Filed 3–18–13; 8:45 am]
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* * * Within Imperial County, the northeastern boundary of Hydrologic Unit #18100200 generally follows the crestline of the Chocolate Mountains.