EPA Approves Nonregulatory Provisions and Quasi-Regulatory Measures in the Texas SIP

Name of SIP provision | Applicable geographic or nonattainment area | State submittal/effective date | EPA approval date | Comments
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Voluntary Mobile Emission Reduction Program (VMEP) | Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller Counties, TX. | June 13, 2007 | 4/2/13, [Insert FR page number where document begins].
NOx RACT finding for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS. | Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller Counties, TX. | April 6, 2010 | 4/2/13, [Insert FR page number where document begins].
VOC RACT finding for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS. | Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller Counties, TX. | April 6, 2010 | 4/2/13, [Insert FR page number where document begins].

ACTION: Direct final rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is taking direct final action to approve a revision to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) and Operating Permits Program to amend the definitions provisions of the rules. This SIP revision and revision to the Missouri operating permits program add the compounds propylene carbonate and dimethyl carbonate to the list of compounds which are excluded from the definition of Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) for consistency with the Federal definition of VOC. The SIP revision also corrects two asbestos method subpart references. This revision also approves Missouri’s request to amend the SIP to meet the 2008 fine particulate matter (PM2.5) National Ambient Air Quality Standards implementation requirements of the May 16, 2008, New Source Review (NSR) PM2.5 Rule. In this SIP revision, Missouri adopted rule revisions to establish the requirement for NSR permits to address directly emitted PM2.5 and precursor pollutants; and significant emission rates for direct PM2.5 and precursor pollutants (sulfur dioxide (SO2) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2)).
DATES: This direct final rule will be effective June 3, 2013, without further notice, unless EPA receives adverse comment by May 2, 2013. If adverse comment is received, EPA will publish a timely withdrawal of the direct final rule in the Federal Register informing the public that the rule will not take effect.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–R07–OAR–2012–0749, by one of the following methods:


2. Email: bernstein.craig@epa.gov.

3. Mail or Hand Delivery: Craig Bernstein, Environmental Protection Agency, Air Planning and Development Branch, 11201 Renner Boulevard, Lenexa, Kansas 66219.

Instructions: Direct your comments to Docket ID No. EPA–R07–OAR–2012–0749. 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 through www.regulations.gov or email information that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected. 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 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 at the Environmental Protection Agency, Air Planning and Development Branch, 11201 Renner Boulevard, Lenexa, Kansas 66219. The Regional Office’s official hours of business are Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 4:30 excluding Federal holidays. The interested persons wanting to examine these documents should make an appointment with the office at least 24 hours in advance.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Craig Bernstein at (913) 551–7688, or by email at bernstein.craig@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Throughout this document “we,” “us,” or “our” refer to EPA. This section provides additional information by addressing the following questions:

I. Why is EPA using a direct final rule?

II. What is being addressed in this document?

III. Have the requirements for approval of a SIP revision and a part 70 revision been met?

IV. What action is EPA taking?

I. Why is EPA using a direct final rule?

EPA is publishing this rule without a prior proposed rule because we view this as a noncontroversial action and anticipate no adverse comment because the revisions are largely administrative and consistent with Federal regulations. The revisions will improve the clarity of the rule and do not have an adverse affect on air quality or the stringency of the SIP or the operating permits program.

II. What is being addressed in this document?

EPA is approving revisions to the Missouri SIP and operating permits program. The first revision adds the compounds propylene carbonate and dimethyl carbonate to the list of compounds which are excluded from the definition of Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) in 10 CSR 10–6.020(v). This action is consistent with the EPA definition of VOC. These compounds can be found in the EPA definition of VOC at 40 CFR 52.100 (s)(I).

Revisions were made to the Table of compounds not considered VOCs because of their known lack of participation in the atmospheric reactions to produce ozone. Revisions include deletions, corrections and additions which are consistent with EPA regulations and do not adversely affect the stringency of the SIP or the operating permits program.

Next, definitions in 40 CSR 10–6.020(c) for Category I nonfriable asbestos containing material (ACM), and Category II nonfriable ACM are being updated to correct the method part subpart reference. The correct method part subpart references are consistent with the EPA rules found at 40 CFR part 763, subpart E, appendix E, section 1. The state has incorporated the EPA method part subpart references in 10 CSR 10–6.020 Definitions and Common Reference Tables (2)(C)(3) and (2)(C)(4) dated November 30, 2010. Although asbestos is not regulated under the SIP, the EPA asbestos regulations (NESHAPS) are applicable requirements for purposes of Missouri’s operating permit program and are approved for this purpose.

Finally, the de minimis emissions table is being updated for consistency with 40 CFR 52.21, specifically related to a portion of the NSR implementation rule for PM2.5 (75 FR 28321, May 16, 2008) which established the requirement for NSR permits to address directly emitted PM2.5 and precursor pollutants and promulgated significant emissions rates for direct PM2.5 and precursor pollutants (SO2 and NOX). This revision can be found in Table 1, subsection (3)(A) of 10 CSR 10–6.020 Definitions and Common Reference Tables. The revised Missouri rule includes the following emission rates: PM2.5 at an emission rate of 10.0 tons per year; SO2 (PM2.5 precursor) at an emission rate of 40.0 tons per year; and NOX (PM2.5 precursor) at an emission rate of 40.0 tons per year.

III. Have the requirements for approval of a SIP revision and a part 70 revision been met?

Revisions were made to Table 1 of the Missouri SIP and operating permits program. The first revision adds the compounds propylene carbonate and dimethyl carbonate to the list of compounds which are excluded from the definition of Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) in 10 CSR 10–6.020(v). This action is consistent with the EPA definition of VOC. These compounds can be found in the EPA definition of VOC at 40 CFR 52.100 (s)(I).

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III. Have the requirements for approval of a SIP revision and a part 70 revision been met?

The state submittal has met the public notice requirements for SIP submissions in accordance with 40 CFR 51.102. The submittal also satisfied the completeness criteria of 40 CFR part 51, appendix V. The substantive requirements of Title V of the 1990 CAA Amendments and 40 CFR part 70 have been met as well.

IV. What action is EPA taking?

We are taking direct final action to approve the amendments to the Missouri SIP and operating permits program. This revision will amend the definitions provisions of the rules as described above for VOCs and asbestos, as well as update the de minimis emissions table found in Missouri’s rule “Definitions and Common Reference Tables” to be consistent with 40 CFR part 52.21.

Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

Under Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993), this action is not a “significant regulatory action” and therefore is not subject to review under Executive Orders 12866 and 15363 (76 FR 3821, January 21, 2011). This action is also not subject to Executive Order 13211, “Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use” (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001). This action merely approves state law as meeting Federal requirements and imposes no additional requirements beyond those imposed by state law. Accordingly, the Administrator certifies that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.). Because this rule approves pre-existing requirements under state law and does not impose any additional enforceable duty beyond that required by state law, it 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).

This rule also does not have tribal implications because it will 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, as specified by Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000). This action also does not have Federalism implications because it does not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government, as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999). Thus Executive Order 13132 does not apply to this action. This action merely approves a state rule implementing a Federal standard, and does not alter the relationship or the distribution of power and responsibilities established in the CAA. This rule also is not subject to Executive Order 13045, “Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks” (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997) because it approves a state rule implementing a Federal standard.

In reviewing SIP submissions, EPA’s role is to approve state choices, provided that they meet the criteria of the CAA. In this context, in the absence of a prior existing requirement for the State to use voluntary consensus standards (VCS), EPA has no authority to disapprove a state submission for failure to use VCS. It would thus be inconsistent with applicable law for EPA when it reviews a state submission, to use VCS in place of a state submission that otherwise satisfies the provisions of the CAA. Thus, the requirements of section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) do not apply. This action does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). Burden is defined at 5 CFR 1320.3(b).

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 et seq., as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. EPA will submit a report containing this rule and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of the rule in the Federal Register. A major rule cannot take effect until 60 days after it is published in the Federal Register. This action is not a “major rule” as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Under section 307(b)(1) of the CAA, petitions for judicial review of this action must be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the appropriate circuit by June 3, 2013. Filing a petition for reconsideration by the Administrator of this final rule does not affect the finality of this rule for the purposes of judicial review nor does it extend the time within which a petition for judicial review may be filed, and shall not postpone the effectiveness of such rule or action. Parties with objections to this direct final rule are encouraged to file a comment in response to the parallel notice of proposed rulemaking for this action published in the proposed rules section of today’s Federal Register, rather than file an immediate petition for judicial review of this direct final rule, so that EPA can withdraw this direct final rule and address the comment in the final rulemaking. This action may not be challenged later in proceedings to enforce its requirements. (See section 307(b)(2).)

List of Subjects

40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Carbon monoxide, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Particulate matter, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Sulfur oxides, Volatile organic compounds.

40 CFR Part 70

Administrative practice and procedure, Air pollution control, Intergovernmental relations, Operating permits, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: March 20, 2013.

Karl Brooks,
Regional Administrator, Region 7.

Chapter I, title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 52—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 52 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.

Subpart AA—Missouri

2. In §52.1320 the table in paragraph (c) is amended by revising the entry for 10–6.020 as follows:

§52.1320 Identification of plan.

* * * * *

(c) * * *
PART 70—[AMENDED]

3. The authority citation for part 70 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.

4. Appendix A to part 70 is amended by adding paragraph (aa) under Missouri to read as follows:

Appendix A to Part 70—Approval Status of State and Local Operating Permits Programs

Missouri

(aa) The Missouri Department of Natural Resources submitted revisions to Missouri rule 10 CSR 10–6.020, “Definitions and Common Reference Tables” on December 15, 2010. The state effective date is December 30, 2010. This revision is effective June 3, 2013.

ACTION: Withdrawal of direct final rule.

SUMMARY: EPA published a direct final rule, Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule: Revision to Best Available Monitoring Method Request Submission Deadline for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems Source Category, on February 19, 2013. That direct final rule amended the deadline by which owners or operators of facilities subject to the petroleum and natural gas systems source category of the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule are required to submit requests for use of best available monitoring methods (BAMM) to the Administrator. Because EPA received potentially adverse comments on the amendments in that direct final rule, we are issuing this notice to withdraw the direct final rule.

DATES: Effective April 2, 2013, the EPA withdraws the direct final rule published at 78 FR 11585 on February 19, 2013.

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; email address: GHGReportingRule@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Because EPA received potentially adverse comments, EPA is withdrawing the direct final rule. Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule: Revision to Best Available Monitoring Method Request Submission Deadline for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems Source Category, published at 78 FR 11585 on February 19, 2013. We stated in that direct final rule that if we received adverse comment by March 21, 2013, we would publish a timely withdrawal in the Federal Register to inform the public that this direct final rule will not take effect. We subsequently received potentially adverse comments on that direct final rule, so we are withdrawing the direct final rule in this notice. We are addressing the potentially adverse comments in a final action based on the proposal also published on February 19, 2013 (78 FR 11619). As stated in the direct final rule and the parallel proposed rule, we are not instituting a second comment period on this action.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 98

Environmental protection. Administrative practice and procedures, Air pollution control, Greenhouse gases, Monitoring, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: March 26, 2013.

Gina McCarthy,
Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation.

Accordingly, the amendments to the rule published on February 19, 2013 (78 FR 11585) are withdrawn as of April 2, 2013.

[FR Doc. 2013–07536 Filed 4–1–13; 8:45 am]
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