NOₓ as part of future PM$_{2.5}$ conformity determinations for the 1997 and 2006 PM$_{2.5}$ NAAQS.

DATES: Effective on December 19, 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gregory Becoat, Environmental Scientist, Office of Air Program Planning (3AP30), United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103, (215) 814–2036; becoat.gregory@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Today’s notice is simply an announcement of a finding that EPA has already made. EPA Region III sent a letter to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection on October 29, 2013 stating that EPA has made insignificance findings, through the adequacy process, for PM$_{2.5}$ and NOₓ for the Charleston, WV 1997 and 2006 PM$_{2.5}$ NAAQS nonattainment area, as the State had requested in its redesignation requests and maintenance plans submittal. Receipt of the submittal was announced on EPA’s transportation conformity Web site. No comments were received. The findings letter is available at EPA’s conformity Web site: http://www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/transconf/adequacy.htm.

Today’s notice simply is an announcement of a finding that EPA has already made. EPA Region III sent a letter to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection on October 29, 2013 stating that EPA has made insignificance findings, through the adequacy process, for PM$_{2.5}$ and NO$_x$ for the Charleston, WV 1997 and 2006 PM$_{2.5}$ NAAQS nonattainment area, as the State had requested in its redesignation requests and maintenance plans submittal. Receipt of the submittal was announced on EPA’s transportation conformity Web site. No comments were received. The findings letter is available at EPA’s conformity Web site: http://www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/transconf/adequacy.htm.

Effective on December 19, 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gregory Becoat, Environmental Scientist, Office of Air Program Planning (3AP30), United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103, (215) 814–2036; becoat.gregory@epa.gov.

TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY

Transportation conformity is required by section 176(c) of the CAA. EPA’s conformity rule requires that transportation plans, transportation improvement programs, and projects conform to state air quality implementation plans (SIPs) and establishes the criteria and procedures for determining whether or not they do. Conformity to a SIP means that transportation activities will not produce new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the national ambient air quality standards.

The criteria by which EPA determine whether a SIP’s motor vehicle emission budgets are adequate for conformity purposes are outlined in 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4). EPA described the process for determining the adequacy of submitted SIP budgets in a July 1, 2004 preamble starting at 69 FR 40038 and used the information in these resources in making this adequacy determination. Please note that an adequacy review is separate from EPA’s completeness review, and should not be used to prejudge EPA’s ultimate approval action for the SIP. Even if EPA finds a budget adequate, the SIP could later be disapproved.

The finding and the response to comments are available at EPA’s conformity Web site: http://www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/transconf/adequacy.htm.

The criteria by which EPA determine whether a SIP’s motor vehicle emission budgets are adequate for conformity purposes are outlined in 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4). EPA described the process for determining the adequacy of submitted SIP budgets in a July 1, 2004 preamble starting at 69 FR 40038 and used the information in these resources in making this adequacy determination. Please note that an adequacy review is separate from EPA’s completeness review, and should not be used to prejudge EPA’s ultimate approval action for the SIP. Even if EPA finds a budget adequate, the SIP could later be disapproved.

The finding and the response to comments are available at EPA’s conformity Web site: http://www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/transconf/adequacy.htm.

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 7401–7671q.

Dated: November 15, 2013.

W.C. Early,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region III.

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P