ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-9979–09–Region 6]
Clean Air Act Operating Permit Program; Petitions for Objection to State Operating Permit for South Louisiana Methanol L.P., St. James Methanol Plant in St. James Parish, Louisiana

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of final Order on Petitions for objection to the Clean Air Act title V operating permit.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator signed an Order dated May 29, 2018 denying a Petition dated December 29, 2016 and a second petition from the same Petitioners on August 10, 2017 for the operating permit issued on June 30, 2017 to South Louisiana Methanol, L.P. (SLM) for its St. James Methanol Plant located in St. James, St. James Parish, Louisiana.

ADDRESSES: The EPA requests that you contact the individual listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section to view copies of the final Order, the Petition, and other supporting information. You may review copies of the final Order, the Petition, and other supporting information at the EPA Region 6 Office, 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 700, Dallas, TX 75202. You may view the hard copies Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., excluding federal holidays. If you wish to examine these documents, you should make an appointment at least 24 hours before the visiting day. Additionally, the final Order and Petition are available electronically at: https://www.epa.gov/title-v-operating-permits/title-v-petition-database.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brad Toups, EPA Region 6, by phone (214) 665–7258, or email at toups.brad@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CAA affords the EPA a 45-day period to review and object to, as appropriate, operating permits proposed by state permitting authorities under title V of the CAA. Section 505(b)(2) of the CAA authorizes any person to petition the EPA Administrator to object to a title V operating permit within 60 days after the expiration of the EPA’s 45-day review period if the EPA has not objected on its own initiative. Petitions must be based only on objections to the permit that were raised with reasonable specificity during the public comment period provided by the state, unless the petitioner demonstrates that it was impracticable to raise these issues during the comment period or unless the grounds for the issues arose after this period.

EPA received a first petition from the Petitioners on December 29, 2016 and a second petition from the same Petitioners on August 10, 2017 for the operating permit issued on June 30, 2017 to SLM for its Methanol Facility located in St. James Parish, Louisiana. The Petitioners requested that the Administrator object to the proposed operating permit issued by the LDEQ to SLM based on eight primary claims in the Petition. The claims are described in detail in Section IV of the Order. In summary, the issues raised include: Matters properly addressable through preconstruction permit requirements, such as the establishment of proper preconstruction emission limits and standards (various claims, introduction to Order Section IV); claims concerning the failure to require Best Available Control Technology (Claim IV); claims of permit condition unenforceability (Claim V); claims of unenforceability of emissions limits that apply to the boiler (Claim V.A), the Reformer Vent (Claim V.B), the flare (Claim V.D), the crude methanol tank (Claim V.E), the cooling towers (Claim V.G), from miscellaneous fired sources (Claim V.F), including CO2 emissions from such fired sources (Claim V.C). On May 29, 2018, the EPA Administrator issued an Order denying the Petitions. The Order explains the basis for EPA’s decision.

Sections 307(b) and 505(b)(2) of the CAA provide that a petitioner may request judicial review of those portions of an order that deny issues in a petition. Any petition for review shall be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the appropriate circuit no later than August 27, 2018.


Anne Idsal, Regional Administrator, Region 6.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–9979–38–OLEM]
Brownfields Utilization, Investment and Local Development (BUILD) Act

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development (BUILD) Act was enacted on March 23, 2018 as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018. The BUILD Act reauthorized the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) Brownfields Program, and made amendments to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by the 2002 Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. These amendments affect brownfields grants, ownership and liability provisions, and State & Tribal Response Programs. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is developing policy and guidance to implement the BUILD Act amendments. As part of this process, the EPA is soliciting comment on three provisions in the BUILD Act: The authority to increase the per-site cleanup grant amounts to $500,000, the new multipurpose grant authority, and the new small community assistance grant authority.
Given these parameters, the Agency is interested in receiving comments from communities and other stakeholders on the following considerations:

1. If a community receives a $500,000 cleanup grant, how likely is it that the community could meet the 20 percent cost share statutory requirement (CERCLA 104(k)(10)(B)(iii))? How would communities meet the 20 percent cost share requirement? Do stakeholders support a higher per grant funding amount, with cost share requirement of less than 20 percent, even if the result is fewer communities will receive brownfields cleanup grants?

2. In your community’s experience, how long does the average brownfield cleanup take to complete? Please provide information on the average length of time, including from the time of state review and approval of a clean-up plan to the time when the brownfield site is ready for reuse. What are the barriers your community experiences in getting a brownfield site cleaned up and ready for reuse?

**Multipurpose Grant Policy**

The BUILD Act established a new Multipurpose Brownfield Grant program. Under this new authority, EPA may provide a maximum of $1 million in funding per grant to an eligible entity to inventory, characterize, assess, plan for or remediate one or more brownfield sites within a target area. The statute requires that a Multipurpose Grant recipient own the brownfields property prior to expending grant resources to remediate the property. The grant funding may be made available to a grant recipient for a maximum of five years. While the EPA has authority to award multipurpose grants up to $1,000,000, the EPA is considering piloting the grants at no more than $700,000.

Given these parameters, the Agency is interested in receiving comments from communities and other stakeholders on the following considerations:

1. Do communities most need funding for brownfields inventory, planning, site assessment or site remediation activities?

2. Do communities typically have in place an “overall plan for revitalization of the one or more brownfields within the proposed area in which the multipurpose grant will be used” or would they most likely need to create this plan using multipurpose grant funds?

3. Is there a reasonable number of accomplishments (e.g., brownfields site assessments and site cleanups) to expect from a grant recipient that receives a $700,000 multipurpose grant over a five-year grant period?

4. What complications and barriers will affect a grant recipient’s ability to achieve these accomplishments?

**128(a) Small Grant Policy**

The BUILD Act added a new authority for the EPA to make grants to states and tribes to provide training, technical assistance or research assistance to support a small or disadvantaged community up to $20,000 per community. Site specific assessment and cleanup activities are not allowable expenditures under this grant authority. The EPA is developing further guidance on (1) the types of activities that are eligible expenses (including examples of such activities) and (2) the evaluation criteria that the EPA will use for evaluating and selecting proposals.

Accordingly, the EPA is soliciting comment on the following issues:

1. The EPA anticipates that state and tribes may provide the following activities to small and disadvantaged communities under this grant:

   Brownfields outreach and education, technical support, economic or market analyses to support the identification of reuse options for a brownfield site, the implementation or use of the EPA’s Land Revitalization tools, and preparation of a needs assessment for developing a Tribal Response Program.

   What other types of activities should be considered as eligible expenditures under this grant program?

2. The EPA plans to include the following evaluation criteria for proposals submitted under this grant program:

   Description of the target community, description/purpose of the proposed project, expected outcomes, description of key activities, what entity will be conducting the activities [e.g., state, tribe, contractor], leveraged resources being provided (as necessary), approximate timeline for completing the eligible activities, the amount of funding requested, an explanation of why existing state and tribal funding is inadequate to conduct or complete the eligible activities, and a demonstration of support from the community that will benefit from the funded activity. What other types of evaluation criteria may be useful for the EPA to use when evaluating proposals and selecting grant recipients?

Dated: June 6, 2018.

David R. Lloyd,
Director, Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization, Office of Land and Emergency Management

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