practicable and legally permissible methods, under Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994).

In addition, the SIP is not approved to apply on any Indian reservation land or in any other area where the EPA or an Indian tribe has demonstrated that a tribe has jurisdiction. In those areas of Indian country, this final rule does not have tribal implications and will not impose substantial direct costs on tribal governments or preempt tribal law as specified by Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000).

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. The EPA will submit a report containing this action 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 Clean Air Act, petitions for judicial review of this action must be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the appropriate circuit by April 15, 2019. Filing a petition for reconsideration by the Administrator of this final rule does not affect the finality of this action 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. This action may not be challenged later in proceedings to enforce its requirements. (See section 307(b)(2).)

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

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

Dated: December 12, 2018.

Alexis Strauss, Acting Regional Administrator, Region IX.

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

PART 52—APPROVAL AND PROMULGATION OF IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

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

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

Subpart F—California

2. Section 52.220 is amended by adding paragraphs (c)(191)(i)(E), (c)(496)(ii)(B)(2), and (3), and (c)(513) to read as follows:

§ 52.220 Identification of plan—in part.

(c)(191)(i)(E) San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District.


(513) The following plan was submitted on April 27, 2017, by the Governor’s designee.

(A) California Air Resources Board.

(1) Resolution 17–7, 2016 State Strategy for the State Implementation Plan, March 23, 2017, commitments to a rulemaking schedule and to achieve aggregate emission reductions of 8 tons per day of NOX in San Joaquin Valley by 2031, and the rulemaking schedule included in attachment A to Resolution 17–7, only.

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I. Background

Epidemiological studies have shown statistically significant correlations between elevated levels of PM2.5 (particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less) and premature mortality. Other important health effects associated with PM2.5 exposure include aggravation of respiratory and cardiovascular disease, changes in lung function, and increased respiratory symptoms. Individuals particularly sensitive to PM2.5 exposure include older adults, people with heart and lung disease, and children.\(^1\) PM2.5 can be emitted directly into the atmosphere as a solid or liquid particle ("primary PM2.5") or can be formed in the atmosphere as a result of various chemical reactions among precursor pollutants such as nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, volatile organic compounds, and ammonia ("secondary PM2.5").\(^2\)

The EPA first established NAAQS for PM2.5 on July 18, 1997.\(^3\) On October 17, 2006, the EPA revised the 24-hour NAAQS for PM2.5 to provide increased protection of public health by lowering the level from 65 micrograms per cubic meter (\(\mu g/m^3\)) to 35 \(\mu g/m^3\).\(^4\)

Following promulgation of a new or revised NAAQS, the EPA is required by CAA section 107(d) to designate areas throughout the nation as attaining or not attaining the NAAQS. On November 13, 2009, the EPA designated the South Coast as nonattainment for the 2006 24-hour PM2.5 standards.\(^5\) This designation became effective on December 14, 2009.\(^6\) On June 2, 2014, the EPA classified the South Coast area as "Moderate" nonattainment for both the 1997 PM2.5 standards and the 2006 PM2.5 standards under subpart 4 of part D, Title I of the Act.\(^7\)

On January 13, 2016, the EPA published a final rule reclassifying the South Coast area as "Serious" nonattainment under subpart 4, based on the EPA’s determination that the area could not practically attain the 2006 PM2.5 standards by the Moderate area attainment date, which was December 31, 2015.\(^8\) This reclassification became effective on February 12, 2016. The local air district with primary responsibility for developing a plan to attain the 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS in this area is the South Coast Air Quality Management District ("District" or "SCAQMD"). The District works cooperatively with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in preparing these plans. State authority for regulating sources in the South Coast is split between the District, which has responsibility for regulating stationary and most area sources, and CARB, which has responsibility for regulating most mobile sources and some categories of consumer products.

As a consequence of its reclassification as a Serious PM2.5 nonattainment area, the South Coast became subject to a new attainment date under CAA section 188(c)(2) and to the requirement to submit a Serious area plan that satisfies the requirements of part D of title I of the Act, including the requirements of subpart 4, for the 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS.\(^9\) As explained in the EPA’s final reclassification action, the Serious area plan for the South Coast must include provisions to assure that the best available control measures (BACM) for the control of direct PM2.5 and PM2.5 precursors will be implemented no later than 4 years after the area is reclassified (CAA section 189(b)(1)(B)), and a demonstration (including air quality modeling) that the plan provides for attainment as expeditiously as practicable but no later than December 31, 2019, which is the latest permissible attainment date under CAA section 188(c)(2).\(^10\)

On October 3, 2018, we proposed to approve portions of a SIP revision submitted by California to address CAA requirements for the 2006 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS in South Coast Serious nonattainment area.\(^11\) The submitted SIP revision is the "Final 2016 Air Quality Management Plan (March 2017)," adopted by the SCAQMD Governing Board on March 3, 2017 ("2016 PM2.5 Plan" or "Plan"). CARB submitted the 2016 PM2.5 Plan to the EPA on April 27, 2017.\(^12\)

The EPA proposed to approve the following portions of the 2016 PM2.5 Plan under CAA section 110(k)(3): The 2012 base year emissions inventory, provisions assuring that BACM, including best available control technology (BACT), for the control of direct PM2.5 and PM2.5 precursors will be implemented no later than 4 years after the area was reclassified, the demonstration (including air quality modeling) that the plan provides for attainment as expeditiously as practicable but no later than December 31, 2019, provisions that require reasonable further progress (RFP) toward attainment by the applicable attainment date, and quantitative milestones that are to be achieved every 3 years until the area is redesignated attainment and that demonstrate RFP, and 2017 and 2019 motor vehicle emissions budgets.\(^13\)

The EPA also proposed to approve the inter-pollutant trading mechanism provided in the 2016 PM2.5 Plan and clarified in a March 14, 2018 letter from the District, for use in transportation conformity analyses for the 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS, in accordance with 40 CFR 93.124. Finally, the EPA proposed to find that the requirement for contingency measures to be undertaken if the area fails to make reasonable further progress under CAA section 172(c)(9) is moot as applied to the 2017 milestone year because the State and District have demonstrated to the EPA’s satisfaction that the 2017 milestones have been met. The rationale for our proposed action is included in the proposal and will not be restated here. We did not propose any action on the attainment contingency measure component of the 2016 PM2.5 Plan.

II. Public Comments and EPA Responses

The EPA’s proposed action provided a 30-day public comment period that ended on November 2, 2018. During this comment period, we received three

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\(^1\) 78 FR 3086, 3088 (January 15, 2013).
\(^2\) 72 FR 20586, 20589 (April 25, 2007).
\(^3\) 62 FR 38652. The initial NAAQS for PM2.5 included annual standards of 15.0 \(\mu g/m^3\) based on a 3-year average of annual mean PM2.5 concentrations and 24-hour (daily) standards of 65 \(\mu g/m^3\) based on a 3-year average of 98th percentile 24-hour concentrations [40 CFR 50.7].
\(^4\) 40 CFR 50.13 and 71 FR 61144. In 2012, the EPA revised the annual standards to lower them to 12 \(\mu g/m^3\) (78 FR 3086 (January 15, 2013), codified at 40 CFR 50.18). Unless otherwise noted, all references to the PM2.5 standards in this notice are to the 2006 24-hour NAAQS of 35 \(\mu g/m^3\) codified at 40 CFR 50.13.
\(^5\) 74 FR 58688.
\(^6\) 40 CFR 81.305.
\(^7\) 79 FR 31566. The EPA took this action in response to a decision of the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit finding that the EPA had erred in implementing the PM2.5 NAAQS pursuant solely to the general implementation provisions of subpart I of Part D, Title I of the Act, without also considering the particulate matter-specific provisions of subpart 4 of Part D. Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) v. EPA, 796 F.3d 428 (D.C. Cir. 2013).
\(^8\) 81 FR 1514.
\(^9\) 81 FR 1514, 1518 (January 13, 2016).
\(^10\) Id.
\(^11\) 83 FR 49872.
\(^12\) Letter dated April 27, 2017, from Richard Corey, Executive Officer, CARB, to Alexia Strauss, Acting Regional Administrator, EPA Region IX, with enclosures. Our proposed rule erroneously stated that we were also proposing to act on CARB’s “2016 State Strategy for the State Implementation Plan (March 2017),” also submitted on April 27, 2017. That submission, however, is not a necessary component of the 2016 PM2.5 Plan. See email dated November 15, 2018, from Scott King, CARB, to Ginger Vagenas, EPA Region IX, Subject: “RE: question about SC 2006 PM2.5 Plan.”
\(^13\) 83 FR 49872.
anonymous comments. Two of these commenters expressed criticism of a political nature unrelated to this action specifically or to environmental protection generally. The third commenter raised concerns about the damage and risks associated with hydraulic fracturing (commonly referred to as “fracking”). Hydraulic fracturing is not addressed in this action. After reviewing these comments, we have concluded that they are outside the scope of our proposed action and fail to identify any material issue necessitating a response. The comments have been added to the docket for this action and are accessible at https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=EPA-R09-OAR-2017-0490.

III. Final Action

The EPA is taking final action to approve portions of the 2016 PM$_{2.5}$ Plan submitted by the State of California to address attainment of the 2006 PM$_{2.5}$ NAAQS in the South Coast PM$_{2.5}$ Serious nonattainment area. We are finalizing approval of the following elements of the 2016 PM$_{2.5}$ Plan under CAA section 110(k)(3):

1. The 2012 base year emission inventories (CAA section 172(c)(3));
2. the demonstration that BACM, including BACT, for the control of direct PM$_{2.5}$ and PM$_{2.5}$ precursors will be implemented no later than 4 years after the area was reclassified (CAA section 189(b)(1)(B));
3. The demonstration (including air quality modeling) that the Plan provides for attainment as expeditiously as practicable but no later than December 31, 2019 (CAA sections 188(c)(2) and 189(b)(1)(A));
4. Plan provisions that require RFP toward attainment by the applicable date (CAA section 172(c)(2));
5. quantitative milestones that are to be achieved every 3 years until the area is redesignated attainment and that demonstrate RFP toward attainment by the applicable date (CAA section 189(c));
6. motor vehicle emissions budgets for 2017 and 2019, as shown in Table 1 (CAA section 176(c) and 40 CFR part 93, subpart A); and
7. the inter-pollutant trading mechanism provided in the 2016 PM$_{2.5}$ Plan and clarified in a March 14, 2018 letter from the Administrator for use of EPA or transportation conformity analyses for the 2006 PM$_{2.5}$ NAAQS, in accordance with 40 CFR 93.124.

We are also finalizing our proposal to determine that the requirement for contingency measures to be undertaken if the area fails to make reasonable further progress under CAA section 172(c)(9) is moot as applied to the 2017 milestone year because CARB and the District have demonstrated to the EPA’s satisfaction that the 2017 milestones have been met.

IV. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

Under the CAA, the Administrator is required to approve a SIP submission that complies with the provisions of the Act and applicable federal regulations. 42 U.S.C. 7410(k); 40 CFR 52.02(a).

Thus, in reviewing SIP submissions, the 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 Orders 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993) and 13563 (76 FR 3821, January 21, 2011);
• Is not an Executive Order 13771 (82 FR 9339, February 2, 2017) regulatory action because SIP approvals are exempted under Executive Order 12866;
• does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.);
• is not certify 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 Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) because application of those requirements would be inconsistent with the CAA; and
• does not provide the EPA with the discretionary authority to address disproportionate human health or environmental effects with practical, appropriate, and legally permissible methods under Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994).

In addition, the SIP is not approved to apply on any Indian reservation land or in any other area where the EPA or an Indian tribe has demonstrated that a tribe has jurisdiction. In those areas of Indian country, the rule does not have tribal implications and will not impose substantial direct costs on tribal governments or preempt tribal law as specified by Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000).

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. The EPA will submit a report containing this action 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).

| TABLE 1—Budgets for the South Coast for the 2006 PM$_{2.5}$ Standard |
|---|---|---|
| 2017 (RFP year) | 2019 (attainment year) |
| PM$_{2.5}$ | NOx | VOC | PM$_{2.5}$ | NOx | VOC |
| Budgets | 21 | 200 | 99 | 20 | 169 | 83 |
Under section 307(b)(1) of the Clean Air Act, petitions for judicial review of this action must be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the appropriate circuit by April 15, 2019. Filing a petition for reconsideration by the Administrator of this final rule does not affect the finality of this action 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. This action may not be challenged later in proceedings to enforce its requirements. (See section 307(b)(2).)

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Ammonia, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Oxides of nitrogen, Particulate matter, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Sulfur oxides, Volatile organic compounds.

Dated: December 12, 2018.

Alexis Strauss,
Acting Regional Administrator, Region IX.

Part 52, chapter I, title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 52—APPROVAL AND PROMULGATION OF IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

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

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

Subpart F—California

2. Section 52.220 is amended by adding paragraph (c)(513)(ii)(B) to read as follows:

§ 52.220 Identification of plan—in part.

(c) * * * * * (513) * * * * * (B) South Coast Air Quality Management District.


Attachment A (“Annual Average Emissions by Source Category in South Coast Air Basin”) for PM2.5, NOx, SO2, VOC, and NH3 for years 2012, 2017, 2019, and 2020 and Attachment D, tables D–1, D–3, D–7, and D–9;


Appendix VI–C (“Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) and Milestone Years”), pages VI–C–5 through VI–C–8, and Attachment VI–C–1 (“California Existing Mobile Source Control Program”); Appendix VI–D (“General Conformity and Transportation Conformity Budget”), pages VI–D–2 through VI–D–6 and excluding tables VI–D–1 through 3; and Appendix VI–F (“Precursor Requirements”).

2. Letter dated March 14, 2018 from Philip Fine, Deputy Executive Officer, Planning, Rule Development, and Area Sources, South Coast Air Quality Management District, to Amy Zimpfer, Associate Director, Air Division, EPA Region IX.

3. Letter dated June 15, 2018 from Philip Fine, Deputy Executive Officer, Planning, Rule Development, and Area Sources, South Coast Air Quality Management District, to Amy Zimpfer, Associate Director, Air Division, EPA Region IX, regarding “Condensable and Filterable Portions of PM2.5 Emissions in the 2016 AQMD.”

[FR Doc. 2019–01922 Filed 2–11–19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 63


RIN 2060–AT70


AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This action finalizes the residual risk and technology review (RTR) conducted for the Leather Finishing Operations source category regulated under national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants (NESHAP). In addition, we are taking final action addressing startup, shutdown, and malfunction (SSM), electronic reporting, and clarification of rule provisions. The final amendments address emissions during periods of SSM, add electronic reporting, and revise certain rule requirements and provisions. Although these amendments will not reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAP), they are expected to improve compliance and implementation of the rule.

DATES: This final rule is effective on February 12, 2019.

ADDRESSES: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established a docket for this action under Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OAR–2003–0194. All documents in the docket are listed on the https://www.regulations.gov website. Although listed, some information is not publicly available, e.g., 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 https://www.regulations.gov, or in hard copy at the EPA Docket Center, EPA WJC West Building, Room Number 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC. The Public Reading Room hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566–1744, and the telephone number for the Docket Center is (202) 566–1742.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions about this final action, contact Mr. Bill Schrock, Natural Resources Group, Sector Policies and Programs Division (E143–03), Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711; telephone number: (919) 541–5032; fax number: (919) 541–0516; and email address: schrock.bill@epa.gov. For specific information regarding the risk modeling methodology, contact Matthew Woody, Health and Environmental Impacts Division (C539–