

Rate set	For plans with a valuation date		Immediate annuity rate (percent)	Deferred annuities (percent)				
	On or after	Before		$i_1$	$i_2$	$i_3$	$n_1$	$n_2$
319 ....	* 5-1-20	* 6-1-20	* 0.50	* 4.00	* 4.00	* 4.00	* 7	* 8

■ 3. In appendix C to part 4022, rate set 319 is added at the end of the table to read as follows:

**Appendix C to Part 4022—Lump Sum Interest Rates for Private-Sector Payments**

\* \* \* \* \*

Rate set	For plans with a valuation date		Immediate annuity rate (percent)	Deferred annuities (percent)				
	On or after	Before		$i_1$	$i_2$	$i_3$	$n_1$	$n_2$
319 ....	* 5-1-20	* 6-1-20	* 0.50	* 4.00	* 4.00	* 4.00	* 7	* 8

Issued in Washington, DC.

**Hilary Duke,**

Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

[FR Doc. 2020-07763 Filed 4-14-20; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement**

**30 CFR Parts 723, 724, 845, and 846**

RIN 1029-AC78

[Docket ID: OSM-2019-0015; S1D1S SS08011000 SX064A000 201S180110; S2D2S SS08011000 SX064A00 20XS501520]

**Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustments**

**AGENCY:** Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (2015 Act), which further amended the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (1990 Act), and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance, this rule adjusts for inflation the level of civil monetary penalties assessed under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA).

**DATES:** Effective April 15, 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathleen Vello, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 4550, Washington,

DC 20240; Telephone (202) 208-1908. Email: [kvello@osmre.gov](mailto:kvello@osmre.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

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**I. Background**

*A. The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015*

Section 518 of SMCRA, 30 U.S.C. 1268, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to assess civil monetary penalties (CMPs) for violations of SMCRA. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's

(OSMRE) regulations implementing the CMP provisions of section 518 are located in 30 CFR parts 723, 724, 845, and 846. We are adjusting CMPs in six sections—30 CFR 723.14, 723.15, 724.14, 845.14, 845.15, and 846.14.

On November 2, 2015, the President signed the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (Sec. 701 of Pub. L. 114-74) (2015 Act) into law. The 2015 Act, which further amended the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (codified as amended at 28 U.S.C. 2461 note), requires Federal agencies to promulgate rules to adjust the level of CMPs to account for inflation. The 2015 Act required an initial “catch-up” adjustment. OSMRE published the initial adjustment in the **Federal Register** on July 8, 2016 (81 FR 44535), and the adjustment took effect on August 1, 2016. The 2015 Act also requires agencies to publish annual inflation adjustments in the **Federal Register** no later than January 15 of each year. These adjustments are aimed at maintaining the deterrent effect of civil penalties and furthering the policy goals of the statutes that authorize the penalties. Further, the 2015 Act provides that agencies must adjust civil monetary penalties “notwithstanding section 553 of [the Administrative Procedure Act].” Therefore, the public procedure that the Administrative Procedure Act generally requires for rulemaking—notice, an opportunity for comment, and a delay in the effective date—is not required for agencies to issue regulations implementing the annual CMP adjustments. *See also* December 16, 2019, Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and

Agencies (M-20-05), from Russell T. Vought, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget, *Implementation of Penalty Inflation*

*Adjustments for 2020, Pursuant to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015* (OMB Memorandum).

Pursuant to SMCRA and the 2015 Act, this final rule reflects the statutorily required CMP adjustments as follows:

CFR citation	Points (where applicable)	Current penalty dollar amounts	Adjusted penalty dollar amounts
30 CFR 723.14 .....	1	\$67	\$68
	2	135	137
	3	202	206
	4	269	274
	5	336	342
	6	404	411
	7	471	479
	8	537	546
	9	605	616
	10	673	685
	11	739	752
	12	807	821
	13	873	888
	14	941	958
	15	1,010	1,028
	16	1,076	1,095
	17	1,143	1,163
	18	1,212	1,233
	19	1,278	1,301
	20	1,345	1,369
	21	1,413	1,438
	22	1,480	1,506
	23	1,547	1,574
	24	1,614	1,642
	25	1,681	1,711
	26	2,018	2,054
	27	2,354	2,396
	28	2,689	2,736
	29	2,898	2,949
	30	3,364	3,423
	31	3,699	3,764
	32	4,035	4,106
	33	4,372	4,449
	34	4,708	4,791
	35	5,044	5,133
	36	5,380	5,475
	37	5,718	5,819
	38	6,053	6,160
	39	6,389	6,502
	40	6,724	6,843
	41	7,063	7,188
	42	7,398	7,529
	43	7,734	7,870
	44	8,071	8,213
	45	8,407	8,555
	46	8,744	8,898
	47	9,079	9,239
	48	9,417	9,583
	49	9,752	9,924
	50	10,088	10,266
	51	10,423	10,607
	52	10,762	10,952
	53	11,098	11,294
	54	11,433	11,635
	55	11,771	11,979
	56	12,106	12,320
	57	12,442	12,661
	58	12,778	13,003
	59	13,116	13,347
	60	13,451	13,688
	61	13,787	14,030
	62	14,124	14,373
	63	14,461	14,716
	64	14,797	15,058
	65	15,132	15,399
	66	15,470	15,743
	67	15,805	16,084

CFR citation	Points (where applicable)	Current penalty dollar amounts	Adjusted penalty dollar amounts
	68	16,141	16,426
	69	16,477	16,768
	70	16,815	17,112
30 CFR 723.15(b) (Assessment of separate violations for each day) .....	.....	2,522	2,566
30 CFR 724.14(b) (Individual civil penalties) .....	.....	16,815	17,112
30 CFR 845.14 .....	1	67	68
	2	135	137
	3	202	206
	4	269	274
	5	336	342
	6	404	411
	7	471	479
	8	537	546
	9	605	616
	10	673	685
	11	739	752
	12	807	821
	13	873	888
	14	941	958
	15	1,010	1,028
	16	1,076	1,095
	17	1,143	1,163
	18	1,212	1,233
	19	1,278	1,301
	20	1,345	1,369
	21	1,413	1,438
	22	1,480	1,506
	23	1,547	1,574
	24	1,614	1,642
	25	1,681	1,711
	26	2,018	2,054
	27	2,354	2,396
	28	2,689	2,736
	29	2,898	2,949
	30	3,364	3,423
	31	3,699	3,764
	32	4,035	4,106
	33	4,372	4,449
	34	4,708	4,791
	35	5,044	5,133
	36	5,380	5,475
	37	5,718	5,819
	38	6,053	6,160
	39	6,389	6,502
	40	6,724	6,843
	41	7,063	7,188
	42	7,398	7,529
	43	7,734	7,870
	44	8,071	8,213
	45	8,407	8,555
	46	8,744	8,898
	47	9,079	9,239
	48	9,417	9,583
	49	9,752	9,924
	50	10,088	10,266
	51	10,423	10,607
	52	10,762	10,952
	53	11,098	11,294
	54	11,433	11,635
	55	11,771	11,979
	56	12,106	12,320
	57	12,442	12,661
	58	12,778	13,003
	59	13,116	13,347
	60	13,451	13,688
	61	13,787	14,030
	62	14,124	14,373
	63	14,461	14,716
	64	14,797	15,058
	65	15,132	15,399
	66	15,470	15,743
	67	15,805	16,084

CFR citation	Points (where applicable)	Current penalty dollar amounts	Adjusted penalty dollar amounts
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	70	16,815	17,112
30 CFR 845.15(b) (Assessment of separate violations for each day) .....	.....	2,522	2,566
30 CFR 846.14(b) (Individual civil penalties) .....	.....	16,815	17,112

In the chart above, there are no numbers listed in the “Points” column relative to 30 CFR 723.15(b), 30 CFR 724.14(b), 30 CFR 845.15(b), and 30 CFR 846.14(b) because those regulatory provisions do not set forth numbers of points. For those provisions, the current regulations only set forth the dollar amounts shown in the chart in the “Current Penalty Dollar Amounts” column; the adjusted amounts, which we are adopting in this rule, are shown in the “Adjusted Penalty Dollar Amounts” column.

#### B. Calculation of Adjustments

OMB issued guidance on the 2020 annual adjustments for inflation. *See* OMB Memorandum (December 16, 2019). The OMB Memorandum notes that the 1990 Act defines “civil monetary penalty” as “any penalty, fine, or other sanction that . . . is for a specific monetary amount as provided by Federal law; or . . . has a maximum amount provided for by Federal law; and . . . is assessed or enforced by an agency pursuant to Federal law; and . . . is assessed or enforced pursuant to an administrative proceeding or a civil action in the Federal courts . . . .” It further instructs that agencies “are to adjust ‘the maximum civil monetary penalty or the range of minimum and maximum civil monetary penalties, as applicable, for each civil monetary penalty by the cost-of-living adjustment.’” *See* December 16, 2019 OMB Memorandum. The 1990 Act, as amended by the 2015 Act, and the OMB Memorandum specify that the annual inflation adjustments are based on the percent change between the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (the CPI-U) published by the Department of Labor for the month of October in the year of the previous adjustment, and the October CPI-U for the preceding year. The recent OMB Memorandum specified that the cost-of-living adjustment multiplier for 2020, not seasonally adjusted, is 1.01764 (the October 2019 CPI-U (257.346) divided by the October 2018 CPI-U (252.885) = 1.01764). OSMRE used this guidance to identify applicable CMPs and calculate the required inflation adjustments. The 1990 Act, as amended by the 2015 Act,

specifies that any resulting increases in CMPs must be rounded according to a stated rounding formula and that the increased CMPs apply only to violations that occur after the date the increase takes effect.

Generally, OSMRE assigns points to a violation as described in 30 CFR 723.13 and 845.13. The CMP owed is based on the number of points received, ranging from one point to 70 points. For example, under our existing regulations in 30 CFR 845.14, a violation totaling 70 points would amount to a \$16,815 CMP. To adjust this amount, we multiply \$16,815 by the 2020 inflation factor of 1.01764, resulting in a raw adjusted amount of \$17,111.62. Because the 2015 Act requires us to round any increase in the CMP amount to the nearest dollar, in this case a violation of 70 points would amount to a new CMP of \$17,112. Pursuant to the 2015 Act, the increases in this final rule apply to CMPs assessed after the date the increases take effect, even if the associated violation predates the applicable increase.

#### C. Effect of the Rule in Federal Program States and on Indian Lands

OSMRE directly regulates surface coal mining and reclamation operations within a State or on Tribal lands if the State or Tribe does not obtain its own approved program pursuant to sections 503 or 710(j) of SMCRA, 30 U.S.C. 1253 or 1300(j). The increases in CMPs contained in this rule will apply to the following Federal program States: Arizona, California, Georgia, Idaho, Massachusetts, Michigan, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Washington. The Federal programs for those States appear at 30 CFR parts 903, 905, 910, 912, 921, 922, 933, 937, 939, 941, 942, and 947, respectively. Under 30 CFR 750.18, the increase in CMPs also applies to Indian lands under the Federal program for Indian lands.

#### D. Effect of the Rule on Approved State Programs

As a result of litigation, *see In re Permanent Surface Mining Regulation Litigation*, No. 79–1144, Mem. Op. (D.D.C. May 16, 1980), 19 Env’t. Rep.

Cas. (BNA) 1477, State regulatory programs are not required to mirror all of the penalty provisions of our regulations. Thus, this rule has no effect on CMPs in States with SMCRA primacy.

## II. Procedural Matters

### A. Regulatory Planning and Review (Executive Orders 12866, 13563, and 13771)

Executive Order 12866 provides that the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in the Office of Management and Budget will review all significant rules. OIRA has determined that agency regulations exclusively implementing the annual inflation adjustments are not significant, provided they are consistent with the OMB Memorandum. Because this final rule exclusively implements the annual inflation adjustments, is consistent with the OMB Memorandum, and will have an annual impact of less than \$100 million, it is not significant under Executive Order 12866.

Executive Order 13563 reaffirms the principles of Executive Order 12866 while calling for improvements in the Nation’s regulatory system to promote predictability, to reduce uncertainty, and to use the best, most innovative, and least burdensome tools for achieving regulatory ends. The Executive order directs agencies to consider regulatory approaches that reduce burdens and maintain flexibility and freedom of choice for the public where these approaches are relevant, feasible, and consistent with regulatory objectives. Executive Order 13563 emphasizes further that regulations must be based on the best available science and that the rulemaking process must allow for public participation and an open exchange of ideas. We have developed this rule in a manner consistent with these requirements, to the extent permitted by statute.

Executive Order 13771 of January 30, 2017, directs Federal agencies to reduce the regulatory burden on regulated entities and control regulatory costs. Executive Order 13771, however, applies only to significant regulatory actions, as defined in Section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866. As mentioned

above, OIRA has determined that agency regulations exclusively implementing the annual adjustments are generally not significant regulatory actions under Executive Order 12866, provided they are consistent with the OMB Memorandum (*see* OMB Memorandum, M–20–05, at 3) and have an annual impact of less than \$100 million. Because this final rule exclusively implements the annual adjustments, is consistent with the OMB Memorandum, and will have an annual impact less than \$100 million, Executive Order 13771 does not apply to this rulemaking.

#### B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) requires an agency to prepare a regulatory flexibility analysis for all rules unless the agency certifies that the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The RFA applies only to rules for which an agency is required to first publish a proposed rule. *See* 5 U.S.C. 603(a) and 604(a). The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 requires agencies to adjust civil penalties annually for inflation “notwithstanding section 553 [of the Administrative Procedure Act].” Thus, no proposed rule will be published, and the RFA does not apply to this rulemaking.

#### C. Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act

This rule is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804(2), the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. This rule:

- (a) Will not have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more.
- (b) Will not cause a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions.
- (c) Will not have significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises.

#### D. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

This rule does not impose an unfunded mandate on State, local, or Tribal governments, or the private sector, of more than \$100 million per year. The rule does not have a significant or unique effect on State, local, or Tribal governments or the private sector. A statement containing the information required by the

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (2 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) is not required.

#### E. Takings (Executive Order 12630)

This rule does not effect a taking of private property or otherwise have takings implications under Executive Order 12630. A takings implication assessment is not required.

#### F. Federalism (Executive Order 13132)

Under the criteria in section 1 of Executive Order 13132, this rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a federalism summary impact statement. A federalism summary impact statement is not required.

#### G. Civil Justice Reform (Executive Order 12988)

This rule complies with the requirements of Executive Order 12988. Specifically, this rule:

- (a) Meets the criteria of section 3(a) requiring that all regulations be reviewed to eliminate errors and ambiguity and be written to minimize litigation; and
- (b) Meets the criteria of section 3(b)(2) requiring that all regulations be written in clear language and contain clear legal standards.

#### H. Consultation with Indian Tribes (Executive Order 13175 and Departmental Policy)

The Department of the Interior strives to strengthen its government-to-government relationship with Tribes through a commitment to consultation with Tribes and recognition of their right to self-governance and Tribal sovereignty. We have evaluated this rule under the Department’s consultation policy, under Departmental Manual Part 512, Chapters 4 and 5, and under the criteria in Executive Order 13175 and have determined that it has no substantial direct effects on Federally-recognized Tribes or Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporations, and that consultation under the Department’s Tribal consultation policy is not required.

#### I. Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not contain information collection requirements, and a submission to the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) is not required. We may not conduct or sponsor, and you are not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

#### J. National Environmental Policy Act

This rule does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. A detailed statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required because the rule is covered by a categorical exclusion. This rule is excluded from the requirement to prepare a detailed statement because it is a regulation of an administrative nature. (For further information *see* 43 CFR 46.210(i).) We have also determined that the rule does not involve any of the extraordinary circumstances listed in 43 CFR 46.215 that would require further analysis under NEPA.

#### K. Effects on Energy Supply, Distribution, and Use (Executive Order 13211)

This rule is not a significant energy action under the definition in Executive Order 13211. A Statement of Energy Effects is not required.

#### L. Clarity of This Regulation

We are required by Executive Orders 12866 (section 1(b)(12)), 12988 (section 3(b)(1)(B)), and 13563 (section 1(a)), and by the Presidential Memorandum of June 1, 1998, to write all rules in plain language. This means that each rule we publish must:

- (a) Be logically organized;
- (b) Use the active voice to address readers directly;
- (c) Use common, everyday words and clear language rather than jargon;
- (d) Be divided into short sections and sentences; and
- (e) Use lists and tables wherever possible.

If you believe that we have not met these requirements in issuing this final rule, please contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Your comments should be as specific as possible in order to help us determine whether any future revisions to the rule are necessary. For example, you should tell us the numbers of the sections or paragraphs that you find unclear, which sections or sentences are too long, the sections where you feel lists or tables would be useful, etc.

#### M. Data Quality Act

In developing this rule, we did not conduct or use a study, experiment, or survey requiring peer review under the Data Quality Act (Pub. L. 106–554).

#### N. Administrative Procedure Act

We are issuing this final rule without prior public notice or opportunity for public comment. As discussed above, the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation

Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 requires agencies to publish adjusted penalties annually. Under the 2015 Act, the public procedure that the Administrative Procedure Act generally requires—notice, an opportunity for comment, and a delay in the effective date—is not required for agencies to issue regulations implementing the annual adjustments required by the 2015 Act. *See* OMB Memorandum, M–20–05, at 4.

**List of Subjects**

*30 CFR Part 723*

Administrative practice and procedure, Penalties, Surface mining, Underground mining.

*30 CFR Part 724*

Administrative practice and procedure, Penalties, Surface mining, Underground mining.

*30 CFR Part 845*

Administrative practice and procedure, Law enforcement, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Surface mining, Underground mining.

*30 CFR Part 846*

Administrative practice and procedure, Penalties, Surface mining, Underground mining.

**Casey Hammond,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.*

For the reasons given in the preamble, the Department of the Interior amends 30 CFR parts 723, 724, 845, and 846 as set forth below.

**PART 723—CIVIL PENALTIES**

■ 1. The authority citation for part 723 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 28 U.S.C. 2461, 30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*, and 31 U.S.C. 3701.

■ 2. Revise the table in § 723.14 to read as follows:

**§ 723.14 Determination of amount of penalty.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Points	Dollars
1 .....	68
2 .....	137
3 .....	206
4 .....	274
5 .....	342
6 .....	411
7 .....	479
8 .....	546
9 .....	616
10 .....	685
11 .....	752

Points	Dollars
12 .....	821
13 .....	888
14 .....	958
15 .....	1,028
16 .....	1,095
17 .....	1,163
18 .....	1,233
19 .....	1,301
20 .....	1,369
21 .....	1,438
22 .....	1,506
23 .....	1,574
24 .....	1,642
25 .....	1,711
26 .....	2,054
27 .....	2,396
28 .....	2,736
29 .....	2,949
30 .....	3,423
31 .....	3,764
32 .....	4,106
33 .....	4,449
34 .....	4,791
35 .....	5,133
36 .....	5,475
37 .....	5,819
38 .....	6,160
39 .....	6,502
40 .....	6,843
41 .....	7,188
42 .....	7,529
43 .....	7,870
44 .....	8,213
45 .....	8,555
46 .....	8,898
47 .....	9,239
48 .....	9,583
49 .....	9,924
50 .....	10,266
51 .....	10,607
52 .....	10,952
53 .....	11,294
54 .....	11,635
55 .....	11,979
56 .....	12,320
57 .....	12,661
58 .....	13,003
59 .....	13,347
60 .....	13,688
61 .....	14,030
62 .....	14,373
63 .....	14,716
64 .....	15,058
65 .....	15,399
66 .....	15,743
67 .....	16,084
68 .....	16,426
69 .....	16,768
70 .....	17,112

■ 3. In § 723.15, revise introductory text of paragraph (b) to read as follows:

**§ 723.15 Assessment of separate violations for each day.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) In addition to the civil penalty provided for in paragraph (a) of this section, whenever a violation contained in a notice of violation or cessation order has not been abated within the abatement period set in the notice or order or as subsequently extended

pursuant to section 521(a) of the Act, 30 U.S.C. 1271(a), a civil penalty of not less than \$2,566 will be assessed for each day during which such failure to abate continues, except that:

\* \* \* \* \*

**PART 724—INDIVIDUAL CIVIL PENALTIES**

■ 4. The authority citation for part 724 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 28 U.S.C. 2461, 30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*, and 31 U.S.C. 3701.

■ 5. In § 724.14, revise the first sentence of paragraph (b) to read as follows:

**§ 724.14 Amount of individual civil penalty.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) The penalty will not exceed \$17,112 for each violation. \* \* \*

**PART 845—CIVIL PENALTIES**

■ 6. The authority citation for part 845 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 28 U.S.C. 2461, 30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*, 31 U.S.C. 3701, Pub. L. 100–202, and Pub. L. 100–446.

■ 7. Revise the table in § 845.14 to read as follows:

**§ 845.14 Determination of amount of penalty.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Points	Dollars
1 .....	68
2 .....	137
3 .....	206
4 .....	274
5 .....	342
6 .....	411
7 .....	479
8 .....	546
9 .....	616
10 .....	685
11 .....	752
12 .....	821
13 .....	888
14 .....	958
15 .....	1,028
16 .....	1,095
17 .....	1,163
18 .....	1,233
19 .....	1,301
20 .....	1,369
21 .....	1,438
22 .....	1,506
23 .....	1,574
24 .....	1,642
25 .....	1,711
26 .....	2,054
27 .....	2,396
28 .....	2,736
29 .....	2,949
30 .....	3,423
31 .....	3,764
32 .....	4,106
33 .....	4,449
34 .....	4,791

Points	Dollars
35 .....	5,133
36 .....	5,475
37 .....	5,819
38 .....	6,160
39 .....	6,502
40 .....	6,843
41 .....	7,188
42 .....	7,529
43 .....	7,870
44 .....	8,213
45 .....	8,555
46 .....	8,898
47 .....	9,239
48 .....	9,583
49 .....	9,924
50 .....	10,266
51 .....	10,607
52 .....	10,952
53 .....	11,294
54 .....	11,635
55 .....	11,979
56 .....	12,320
57 .....	12,661
58 .....	13,003
59 .....	13,347
60 .....	13,688
61 .....	14,030
62 .....	14,373
63 .....	14,716
64 .....	15,058
65 .....	15,399
66 .....	15,743
67 .....	16,084
68 .....	16,426
69 .....	16,768
70 .....	17,112

(b) The penalty will not exceed \$17,112 for each violation. \* \* \*

[FR Doc. 2020-07390 Filed 4-14-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-05-P

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**40 CFR Part 52**

[EPA-R04-OAR-2019-0503; FRL-10007-45-Region 4]

**Air Plan Approvals; GA and NC; Prevention of Significant Deterioration Infrastructure Requirements for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conditionally approving portions of the Georgia and North Carolina infrastructure State Implementation Plan (SIP) submissions for the 2015 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) provided to EPA on September 24, 2018, and September 27, 2018, respectively. Whenever EPA promulgates a new or revised NAAQS, the Clean Air Act (CAA or Act) requires that each state adopt and submit a SIP submission to establish that the state's SIP meets infrastructure requirements for the implementation, maintenance, and enforcement of each such NAAQS. Specifically, EPA is taking final action to conditionally approve the portions of the Georgia and North Carolina infrastructure SIP submissions related to the prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) infrastructure elements for the 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

**DATES:** This rule will be effective May 15, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket Identification No. EPA-R04-OAR-2019-0503. All documents in the docket are listed on the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) website. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, *i.e.*, Confidential Business Information 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 [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or in hard copy at the Air Regulatory Management Section, Air Planning and Implementation

Branch, Air and Radiation Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. EPA requests that if at all possible, you contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section to schedule your inspection. The Regional Office's official hours of business are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nacosta C. Ward of the Air Regulatory Management Section, Air Planning and Implementation Branch, Air and Radiation Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. Ms. Ward can be reached by telephone at (404) 562-9140 or via electronic mail at [ward.nacosta@epa.gov](mailto:ward.nacosta@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background and Overview**

On October 1, 2015, EPA promulgated revised primary and secondary NAAQS for ozone, revising the 8-hour ozone standards from 0.075 parts per million (ppm) to a new more protective level of 0.070 ppm. *See* 80 FR 65292 (October 26, 2015). Pursuant to section 110(a)(1) of the CAA, states are required to submit SIP revisions meeting the applicable requirements of section 110(a)(2) within three years after promulgation of a new or revised NAAQS or within such shorter period as EPA may prescribe. Section 110(a)(2) requires states to address basic SIP elements such as requirements for monitoring, basic program requirements, and legal authority that are designed to assure attainment and maintenance of the NAAQS. This particular type of SIP is commonly referred to as an "infrastructure SIP." States were required to submit such SIP revisions for the 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS to EPA no later than October 1, 2018.<sup>1</sup>

As explained in a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) published on February 11, 2020 (85 FR 7695), Georgia and North Carolina cite to several regulations<sup>2 3</sup> to demonstrate that their

<sup>1</sup> In infrastructure SIP submissions, states generally certify evidence of compliance with sections 110(a)(1) and (2) of the CAA through a combination of state regulations and statutes, some of which have been incorporated into the SIP. In addition, certain federally-approved, non-SIP regulations may also be appropriate for demonstrating compliance with sections 110(a)(1) and (2).

<sup>2</sup> Georgia's September 24, 2018, infrastructure SIP submission cites the following rules to meet the PSD program requirements of 110(a)(2)(C): Georgia Rules for Air Quality Control 391-3-1-.02—"Provisions Amended," including PSD requirements under Rule 391-3-1-.02(7)—"Prevention of Significant Deterioration," 391-3-1-

■ 8. In § 845.15, revise introductory text of paragraph (b) to read as follows:

**§ 845.15 Assessment of separate violations for each day.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) In addition to the civil penalty provided for in paragraph (a) of this section, whenever a violation contained in a notice of violation or cessation order has not been abated within the abatement period set in the notice or order or as subsequently extended pursuant to section 521(a) of the Act, 30 U.S.C. 1271(a), a civil penalty of not less than \$2,566 will be assessed for each day during which such failure to abate continues, except that:

\* \* \* \* \*

**PART 846—INDIVIDUAL CIVIL PENALTIES**

■ 9. The authority citation for part 846 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 28 U.S.C. 2461, 30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*, and 31 U.S.C. 3701.

■ 10. In § 846.14, revise the first sentence of paragraph (b) to read as follows:

**§ 846.14 Amount of individual civil penalty.**

\* \* \* \* \*