

is some circumstance in which electronic mail cannot be used, submission may be by Priority Mail Express® or by means at least as fast and reliable as Priority Mail Express® to the Office of the Solicitor, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Mail Stop 8, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450;

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(2) * * *

(i) File a notice of election with the Director by electronic mail sent to the email address indicated on the United States Patent and Trademark Office's web page for the Office of the General Counsel. This electronically submitted notice will be accorded a receipt date, which is the date in Eastern Time when the correspondence is received in the Office, regardless of whether that date is a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday within the District of Columbia. If there is some circumstance in which electronic mail cannot be used, submission may be by Priority Mail Express® or by means at least as fast and reliable as Priority Mail Express® to the Office of the Solicitor, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Mail Stop 8, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450;

* * * * *

(e) * * *

(2)(i) The request must be filed with the Director by electronic mail sent to the email address indicated on the United States Patent and Trademark Office's web page for the Office of the General Counsel. This electronically submitted notice will be accorded a receipt date, which is the date in Eastern Time when the correspondence is received in the Office, regardless of whether that date is a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday within the District of Columbia. If there is some circumstance in which electronic mail cannot be used, submission may be by Priority Mail Express® or by means at least as fast and reliable as Priority Mail Express® to the Office of the Solicitor, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Mail Stop 8, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

(ii) A copy of the request should also be filed with the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board via ESTTA.

PART 90—JUDICIAL REVIEW OF PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD DECISIONS

■ 3. The authority citation for part 90 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2).

■ 4. Section 90.2 is amended by revising paragraphs (a)(1) and (b)(1) to read as follows:

§ 90.2 Notice; service.

(a) * * *

(1)(i) In all appeals, the notice of appeal required by 35 U.S.C. 142 must be filed with the Director by electronic mail to the email address indicated on the United States Patent and Trademark Office's web page for the Office of the General Counsel. This electronically submitted notice will be accorded a receipt date, which is the date in Eastern Time when the correspondence is received in the Office, regardless of whether that date is a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday within the District of Columbia. If there is some circumstance in which electronic mail cannot be used, submission may be by Priority Mail Express® to the Office of the Solicitor, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Mail Stop 8, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

(ii) A copy of the notice of appeal must also be filed with the Patent Trial and Appeal Board in the appropriate manner provided in §§ 41.10(a), 41.10(b), or 42.6(b) of this chapter.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(1) Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 141(d), if an adverse party elects to have all further review proceedings conducted under 35 U.S.C. 146 instead of under 35 U.S.C. 141, that party must file a notice of election with the Director by electronic mail to the email address indicated on the United States Patent and Trademark Office's web page for the Office of the General Counsel. This electronically submitted notice will be accorded a receipt date, which is the date in Eastern Time when the correspondence is received in the Office, regardless of whether that date is a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday within the District of Columbia. If there is some circumstance in which electronic mail cannot be used, submission may be by Priority Mail Express® to the Office of the Solicitor, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Mail Stop 8, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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■ 5. Section 90.3 is amended by revising the paragraphs (c)(1) introductory text and (c)(2) to read as follows:

§ 90.3 Time for appeal or civil action.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(1) The Director, or the Director's designee, may extend the time for filing an appeal, or commencing a civil action, upon written request if:

* * * * *

(2) The request must be filed with the Director by electronic mail to the email address indicated on the United States Patent and Trademark Office's web page for the Office of the General Counsel. This electronically submitted request will be accorded a receipt date, which is the date in Eastern Time when the correspondence is received in the Office, regardless of whether that date is a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday within the District of Columbia. If there is some circumstance in which electronic mail cannot be used, submission may be by Priority Mail Express® to the Office of the Solicitor, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Mail Stop 8, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Katherine K. Vidal,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2024-06659 Filed 3-28-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R05-OAR-2023-0515; EPA-R05-OAR-2023-0516; EPA-R05-OAR-2023-0517; FRL-11718-01-R5]

Adequacy Status of the Allegan, Berrien, and Muskegon Counties, Michigan Submitted Reasonable Further Progress Plan for Transportation Conformity Purposes

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notification of adequacy.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is notifying the public that we have found that the volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) motor vehicle emissions budgets (budgets) in the submitted 2015 Ozone moderate Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) plan for Allegan, Berrien, and Muskegon Counties are adequate for conformity purposes. As a result of our finding, these areas must use the budgets from the submitted RFP plan for future conformity determinations.

DATES: This finding is effective April 15, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Leslie, Control Strategies Section, Air Programs Branch (AR 18J), Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, (312) 353-6680; leslie.michael@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is simply an announcement of a finding that we have already made. EPA Region 5 sent a letter to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy on January 17, 2024, stating that the VOC and NO_x budgets for Allegan, Berrien, and Muskegon Counties submitted in the 2015 RFP plan for the 2023 milestone year are adequate. The finding is available at EPA's conformity website: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/transconf/adequacy.htm>.

The budgets are as follows:

2023 VOC AND NO_x RFP BUDGETS FOR THE ALLEGAN, BERRIEN, AND MUSKEGON COUNTIES OZONE AREAS

[Listed in tons per day (tpd)]

Area	NO _x (tpd)	VOC (tpd)
Allegan County	1.15	0.70
Berrien County	2.98	1.85
Muskegon County	1.73	1.74

Transportation conformity is required by Clean Air Act section 176(c). EPA's conformity rule requires that transportation plans, transportation improvement programs, and projects conform to air quality state 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 we determine whether a SIP's motor vehicle emission budgets are adequate for conformity purposes are outlined in 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4). We've described our process for determining the adequacy of submitted SIP budgets in our July 1, 2004, preamble starting at 69 FR 40038 and we used the information in these resources in making our adequacy determination. Please note that an adequacy review is separate from EPA's completeness review and should not be used to prejudice EPA's ultimate approval action for the SIP. Even if we find a budget adequate, the SIP could later be disapproved.

The finding is available at EPA's conformity website: <https://www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/transconf/adequacy.htm>.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401–7671q.

Dated: February 22, 2024.

Debra Shore,

Regional Administrator, Region 5.

[FR Doc. 2024–06372 Filed 3–28–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 55

[EPA–R04–OAR–2023–0535; FRL–11589–02–R4]

Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations; Consistency Update for North Carolina

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is updating a portion of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Air Regulations. Requirements applying to OCS sources located within 25 miles of States' seaward boundaries must be updated periodically to remain consistent with the requirements of the corresponding onshore area (COA), as mandated by the Clean Air Act (CAA). The portion of the OCS air regulations that is being updated pertains to the requirements for OCS sources for which North Carolina is the designated COA. North Carolina's requirements discussed in this document will be incorporated by reference into the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and listed in the appendix to the Federal OCS air regulations.

DATES: This final rule is effective on April 29, 2024. The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in this rule is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of April 29, 2024.

ADDRESSES: EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket ID Number EPA–R04–OAR–2023–0535. All documents in the docket are listed on the www.regulations.gov website. Although listed in the index, some information may not be publicly available, e.g., 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 through www.regulations.gov, or in hard copy at the Air Permits Section, Air Planning and Implementation Branch, Air and Radiation Division, U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency, Region 4 Regional, 61 Forsyth St. 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: Kathleen Weil, Air Permits 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. The telephone number is (404) 562–9170. Ms. Weil can also be reached via electronic mail at weil.kathleen@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background and Purpose

On September 4, 1992, EPA promulgated 40 CFR part 55,¹ which established requirements to control air pollution from OCS sources in order to attain and maintain Federal and State ambient air quality standards and to comply with the provisions of part C of title I of the CAA. The regulations at 40 CFR part 55 apply to all OCS sources offshore of the States except those located in the Gulf of Mexico west of 87.5 degrees longitude. Section 328 of the CAA requires that for such sources located within 25 miles of a State's seaward boundary, the requirements shall be the same as would be applicable if the sources were located in the COA. Because the OCS requirements are based on onshore requirements, and onshore requirements may change, section 328(a)(1) requires that EPA update the OCS requirements as necessary to maintain consistency with onshore requirements.

On December 12, 2023 (88 FR 86094), EPA published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) proposing to incorporate various North Carolina air pollution control requirements into 40 CFR part 55. Pursuant to 40 CFR 55.12, consistency reviews will occur: (1) At least annually where an OCS activity is occurring within 25 miles of a State seaward boundary; (2) upon receipt of a Notice of Intent (NOI) under 40 CFR 55.4; or (3) when a State or local agency submits a rule to EPA to be considered for incorporation by reference in 40 CFR part 55. EPA's NPRM was initiated in

¹ The reader may refer to the notice of proposed rulemaking, December 5, 1991 (56 FR 63774), and the preamble to the final rule promulgated September 4, 1992 (57 FR 40792), for further background and information on the OCS regulations.