

• Gregory Risdahl, Alaska Regional Office, USDA—Forest Service.

List of Subjects

36 CFR Part 242

Administrative practice and procedure, Alaska, Fish, National forests, Public lands, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wildlife.

43 CFR Part 51

Administrative practice and procedure, Alaska, Fish, National forests, Public lands, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wildlife.

Proposed Regulation Promulgation

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Federal Subsistence Board proposes to amend 36 CFR part 242 and 43 CFR part 51 for the 2027–28 and 2028–29 regulatory years:

Proposed amendments to 36 CFR 242.23, 242.27, and 242.28 and 43 CFR 51.23, 51.27, and 51.28 last amended by the final rule for the 2025–2027 regulatory period for fish and shellfish (90 FR 34157, July 18, 2025).

Proposed amendments to 36 CFR 242.24 and 242.25 and 43 CFR 51.24 and 51.25 last amended by the final rule for the transfer and amendment of Federal Subsistence Management Program regulations (90 FR 34148; July 18, 2025).

Crystal Leonetti,

Director, DOI—Office of Subsistence Management.

Gregory Risdahl,

Subsistence Program Leader, USDA—Forest Service.

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BILLING CODE 3411–15–P; 4334–13–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA–R09–OAR–2025–2961; FRL–13073–01–R9]

Air Plan Revisions; Arizona; Arizona Department of Environmental Quality; Gila County Reasonably Available Control Technology

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to approve, under the Clean Air Act (CAA or “Act”), revisions to the Arizona state implementation plan (SIP) addressing reasonably available control technology (RACT) requirements for the 2015 ozone

national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS or “standard”) within the Gila County portion of the Phoenix-Mesa ozone nonattainment area. This proposal explains our evaluation of Arizona’s SIP submittal and basis for proposing approval.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before March 16, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–R09–OAR–2025–2961 at <https://www.regulations.gov>. For comments submitted at [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). The EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. The EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.*, on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, please contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. For the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>. If you need assistance in a language other than English or if you are a person with a disability who needs a reasonable accommodation at no cost to you, please contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elijah Gordon, EPA Region IX, 75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105; telephone number: (415) 972–3158; email address: gordon.elijah@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Throughout this document, “we,” “us,” and “our” refer to the EPA.

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I. Background

Pursuant to title I of the CAA, the EPA establishes ambient air quality standards for six “criteria” air pollutants known to be harmful to human health and the environment. States are required to submit plans, referred to as SIPs, that provide for implementation, maintenance, and enforcement of each standard. As appropriate, this includes measures to reduce emissions of criteria air pollutants and/or “precursor” air pollutants that lead to the formation of the criteria air pollutants. Areas causing or contributing to a violation of a NAAQS are designated under the CAA as “nonattainment” and must adopt and submit additional SIP elements. Ozone nonattainment areas are further classified as “Marginal,” “Moderate,” “Serious,” “Severe,” or “Extreme.”

In ozone nonattainment areas, one of the additional SIP elements is the submission of a RACT SIP. CAA sections 182(b)(2) and 182(f) require RACT to be implemented in ozone nonattainment areas classified as Moderate or higher for any source category covered by a Control Techniques Guidelines (CTG) document issued by the EPA and for any major stationary source of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x).¹ The EPA defines RACT as the “. . . lowest emission limitation that a particular source is capable of meeting by the application of control technology that is reasonably available considering technological and economic feasibility.”²

In this proposal, we are evaluating a RACT SIP submitted by Arizona. In 2015, the EPA revised the ozone NAAQS establishing an 8-hour standard of 0.070 parts per million (“2015 ozone NAAQS” or “2015 standard”).³ In 2018, the EPA initially designated the Phoenix-Mesa area in Arizona as nonattainment for the 2015 standard with a classification of Marginal.⁴ In 2022, the EPA reclassified the Phoenix-Mesa ozone nonattainment area to Moderate.⁵ The reclassification to Moderate triggered the CAA requirement for Arizona to implement RACT in the Phoenix-Mesa ozone

¹ Emissions of VOC and NO_x are precursors to the formation of ozone in the ambient air.

² 44 FR 53761, 53762 (*September 17, 1979*).

³ 80 FR 65292 (October 26, 2015).

⁴ 83 FR 25776 (June 4, 2018).

⁵ 40 CFR 81.303. After failing to attain the NAAQS by the attainment date, the Phoenix-Mesa ozone nonattainment area was reclassified to Moderate for the 2015 ozone NAAQS on October 7, 2022 (87 FR 60897).

nonattainment area for the 2015 standard.⁶

II. The State’s Submittal

On March 26, 2025, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) submitted a SIP revision to the

EPA certifying that RACT requirements for the portion of Gila County within the Phoenix-Mesa ozone nonattainment area have been met (“2025 RACT SIP” or “submittal”). The ADEQ is the governor’s designee for submitting

official revisions of the Arizona SIP to the EPA. Table 1 lists the document in the submittal that is addressed by this proposal with the date that it was adopted and submitted to the EPA by the ADEQ.

TABLE 1—SUBMITTED DOCUMENT

Agency	Document title	Adopted	Submitted
ADEQ	SIP Revision: Gila County, Arizona RACT Analysis and Negative Declarations for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS.	03/24/2025	03/26/2025

On May 1, 2025, the EPA determined that ADEQ’s 2025 RACT SIP met the completeness criteria in 40 CFR part 51, appendix V.

The ADEQ has jurisdiction for regulating stationary sources of air pollution within Gila County, Arizona. Therefore, consistent with CAA sections 182(b)(2) and 182(f), the 2025 RACT SIP must demonstrate that the ADEQ is implementing RACT in this area for all sources covered by a CTG document and for all major stationary sources of VOC or NO_x. Because the Phoenix-Mesa ozone nonattainment area is classified as Moderate, a major stationary source is any stationary facility or source of air pollutants which directly emits, or has the potential to emit, one hundred tons per year or more of any air pollutant.⁷

The ADEQ’s 2025 RACT SIP certifies that there are no sources subject to RACT requirements within the Gila County portion of the Phoenix-Mesa ozone nonattainment area for the 2015 ozone NAAQS. As such, the ADEQ submitted negative declarations for all CTG documents and for major stationary sources of VOC and NO_x. The ADEQ based its negative declarations on reviewing its permitting database, internal point source emissions inventory, and the EPA National Emissions Inventory (NEI). The ADEQ stated that “[t]here are currently no air permitted sources within the area.”⁸ The EPA’s technical support document (TSD) in the docket for this action has more information about the ADEQ’s 2025 RACT SIP.

III. The EPA’s Evaluation

A. How is the EPA evaluating the document?

The ADEQ’s 2025 RACT SIP must demonstrate that it implements RACT in the Gila County portion of the Phoenix-Mesa ozone nonattainment area. The

EPA’s implementation rule for the 2015 standard provides guidance for making a RACT demonstration and references prior discussions in our implementation rules for the 1997 and 2008 ozone standards.⁹ In sum, RACT SIPs must contain adopted RACT regulations, certifications (where appropriate) that existing provisions are RACT, and/or negative declarations that no sources in the nonattainment area are covered by a specific CTG.¹⁰ Furthermore, states must submit appropriate supporting information for their RACT submissions.¹¹

Additionally, relevant requirements in CAA sections 110(a) and 110(l) must also be met. CAA section 110(a) requires emissions limitations in the SIP to be “enforceable.” CAA section 110(l) requires SIP revisions to be adopted after reasonable notice and public hearing and prohibits EPA approval if the revision would interfere with any applicable requirement concerning attainment and reasonable further progress or any other applicable requirement of the Act.

Rules, guidance, and policy documents that we used for our review include the following:

1. “State Implementation Plans; General Preamble for the Implementation of Title I of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990,” 57 FR 13498 (April 16, 1992); 57 FR 18070 (April 28, 1992).
2. Memorandum dated May 18, 2006, from William T. Harnett, Director, Air Quality Policy Division, to Regional Air Division Directors, Subject: “RACT Qs & As—Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT): Questions and Answers.”
3. “Final Rule to Implement the 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard—Phase 2,” 70 FR 71612 (November 29, 2005).
4. “Implementation of the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone: State Implementation Plan Requirements,” 80 FR 12264 (March 6, 2015).

⁵ “Implementation of the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone: Nonattainment Area State Implementation Plan Requirements,” 83 FR 62998 (December 6, 2018).

B. Does the document meet the evaluation criteria?

We evaluated the ADEQ’s 2025 RACT SIP to ensure it meets RACT and other CAA requirements. We reviewed the EPA’s NEI, reviewed the EPA’s Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) database, and performed multiple internet searches for sources potentially located within the nonattainment area to determine whether the ADEQ’s determination that no sources are subject to RACT was reasonable.

We did not identify any major stationary sources of VOC or NO_x or any sources subject to a CTG document within the Gila County portion of the Phoenix-Mesa ozone nonattainment area. Given that no air permits have been issued for stationary sources within this area of Gila County, this is a reasonable finding. Additionally, this conclusion is not unexpected considering the portion of Gila County in the Phoenix-Mesa ozone nonattainment area represents less than 0.5 percent of the entire acreage of the nonattainment area, and the land is entirely National Forest and National Park land.

Thus, we did not identify any sources that would be subject to RACT requirements, and we agree with the ADEQ’s submitted negative declarations. We also find that the submittal meets CAA section 110(l) because it was adopted after reasonable notice and public hearing and because it would not interfere with any applicable requirement concerning attainment, reasonable further progress, or any other applicable requirement of

⁶ 40 CFR 51.1312(a).

⁷ CAA sections 182(f) and 302(j). For ozone nonattainment areas classified as Serious, Severe, or Extreme, the CAA provides that the major

stationary source threshold is 50 tons per year (tpy), 25 tpy, and 10 tpy, respectively. See CAA sections 182(c), 182(d), 182(e), and 182(f), respectively.

⁸ See 2025 RACT SIP, page 6.

⁹ 83 FR 62998, 63007 (December 6, 2018).

¹⁰ 80 FR 12264, 12278 (March 6, 2015).

¹¹ Id.; 70 FR 71612, 71652 (November 29, 2005).

the Act. Because only negative declarations were adopted, the submittal does not contain any emissions limitations to evaluate for enforceability under CAA section 110(a). The TSD has more information on our evaluation.

IV. Proposed Action and Request for Public Comment

As authorized in section 110(k)(3) of the Act, the EPA proposes to approve

the ADEQ's 2025 RACT SIP under CAA sections 182(b)(2) and 182(f) as meeting RACT for the Gila County portion of the Phoenix-Mesa ozone nonattainment area for the 2015 ozone NAAQS and because it fulfills the relevant requirements in CAA sections 110(a) and 110(l). For each RACT element, Table 2 lists the rule or negative declaration relied upon to address RACT and our proposed action for that RACT element.

We will accept comments from the public on this proposal until March 16, 2026. If finalized as proposed, our final action will add the document in Table 1 into the Arizona SIP and the negative declarations into 40 CFR 52.122.

Table 2—Proposed Action on RACT Elements for 2015 Ozone NAAQS¹²

CTG document No.	RACT element	Rule implementing RACT	Negative declaration submitted	EPA proposed action
EPA-450/R-75-102	Design Criteria for Stage I Vapor Control—Gasoline Service Stations.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-77-008	Control of Volatile Organic Emissions from Existing Stationary Sources—Volume II: Surface Coating of Cans.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-77-008	Control of Volatile Organic Emissions from Existing Stationary Sources—Volume II: Surface Coating of Coils.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-77-008	Control of Volatile Organic Emissions from Existing Stationary Sources—Volume II: Surface Coating of Paper.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-77-008	Control of Volatile Organic Emissions from Existing Stationary Sources—Volume II: Surface Coating of Fabrics.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-77-008	Control of Volatile Organic Emissions from Existing Stationary Sources—Volume II: Surface Coating of Automobiles and Light-Duty Trucks.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-77-022	Control of Volatile Organic Emissions from Solvent Metal Cleaning.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-77-025	Control of Refinery Vacuum Producing Systems, Wastewater Separators, and Process Unit Turnarounds.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-77-026	Control of Hydrocarbons from Tank Truck Gasoline Loading Terminals.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-77-032	Control of Volatile Organic Emissions from Existing Stationary Sources—Volume III: Surface Coating of Metal Furniture.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-77-033	Control of Volatile Organic Emissions from Existing Stationary Sources—Volume IV: Surface Coating of Insulation of Magnet Wire.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-77-034	Control of Volatile Organic Emissions from Existing Stationary Sources—Volume V: Surface Coating of Large Appliances.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-77-035	Control of Volatile Organic Emissions from Bulk Gasoline Plants.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-77-036	Control of Volatile Organic Emissions from Storage of Petroleum Liquids in Fixed-Roof Tanks.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-77-037	Control of Volatile Organic Emissions from Use of Cutback Asphalt.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-78-015	Control of Volatile Organic Emissions from Existing Stationary Sources—Volume VI: Surface Coating of Miscellaneous Metal Parts and Products.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-78-029	Control of Volatile Organic Emissions from Manufacture of Synthesized Pharmaceutical Products.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-78-030	Control of Volatile Organic Emissions from Manufacture of Pneumatic Rubber Tires.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-78-032	Control of Volatile Organic Emissions from Existing Stationary Sources—Volume VII: Factory Surface Coating of Flat Wood Paneling.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-78-033	Control of Volatile Organic Emissions from Existing Stationary Sources—Volume VIII: Graphic Arts-Rotogravure and Flexography.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-78-036	Control of Volatile Organic Compound Leaks from Petroleum Refinery Equipment.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-78-047	Control of Volatile Organic Emissions from Petroleum Liquid Storage in External Floating Roof Tanks.		Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/2-78-051	Control of Volatile Organic Compound Leaks from Gasoline Tank Trucks and Vapor Collection Systems.		Yes	Approval.

¹² The ADEQ also adopted a negative declaration for “Protocol for Determining the Daily Volatile Organic Compound Emission Rate of Automobile

and Light-Duty Truck Primer-Surfacer and Topcoat Operations (EPA 453/R-08-002, 2008/09).”

However, this document is not a CTG document, and the EPA will not propose action on it.

CTG document No.	RACT element	Rule implementing RACT	Negative declaration submitted	EPA proposed action
EPA-450/3-82-009	Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions from Large Petroleum Dry Cleaners.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/3-83-006	Control of Volatile Organic Compound Leaks from Synthetic Organic Chemical Polymer and Resin Manufacturing Equipment.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/3-83-007	Control of Volatile Organic Compound Equipment Leaks from Natural Gas/Gasoline Processing Plants.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/3-83-008	Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions from Manufacture of High-Density Polyethylene, Polypropylene, and Polystyrene Resins.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/3-84-015	Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions from Air Oxidation Processes in Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturing Industry.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA-450/4-91-031	Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions from Reactor Processes and Distillation Operations in Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturing Industry.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA-453/R-96-007	Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions from Wood Furniture Manufacturing Operations.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA-453/R-94-032; 61 FR 44050; 8/27/96.	Alternative Control Technology Document—Surface Coating Operations at Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Facilities.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA-453/R-97-004; 59 FR 29216; 6/06/94.	Control of VOC Emissions from Coating Operations at Aerospace Manufacturing and Rework.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA-453/R-06-001	Control Techniques Guidelines for Industrial Cleaning Solvents.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA-453/R-06-002	Control Techniques Guidelines for Offset Lithographic Printing and Letterpress Printing.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA-453/R-06-003	Control Techniques Guidelines for Flexible Package Printing	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA-453/R-06-004	Control Techniques Guidelines for Flat Wood Paneling Coatings.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA 453/R-07-003	Control Techniques Guidelines for Paper, Film, and Foil Coatings.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA 453/R-07-004	Control Techniques Guidelines for Large Appliance Coatings	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA 453/R-07-005	Control Techniques Guidelines for Metal Furniture Coatings	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA 453/R-08-003	Control Techniques Guidelines for Miscellaneous Metal and Plastic Parts Coatings: Table 2—Metal Parts and Products.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA 453/R-08-003	Control Techniques Guidelines for Miscellaneous Metal and Plastic Parts Coatings: Table 3—Plastic Parts and Products.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA 453/R-08-003	Control Techniques Guidelines for Miscellaneous Metal and Plastic Parts Coatings: Table 4—Automotive/Transportation and Business Machine Plastic Parts.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA 453/R-08-003	Control Techniques Guidelines for Miscellaneous Metal and Plastic Parts Coatings: Table 5—Pleasure Craft Surface Coating.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA 453/R-08-003	Control Techniques Guidelines for Miscellaneous Metal and Plastic Parts Coatings: Table 6—Motor Vehicle Materials.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA 453/R-08-004	Control Techniques Guidelines for Fiberglass Boat Manufacturing Materials.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA 453/R-08-005	Control Techniques Guidelines for Miscellaneous Industrial Adhesives.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA 453/R-08-006	Control Techniques Guidelines for Automobile and Light-Duty Truck Assembly Coatings.	.....	Yes	Approval.
EPA 453/B-16-001	Control Techniques Guidelines for the Oil and Natural Gas Industry.	.....	Yes	Approval.
	Major non-CTG VOC Sources .....	.....	Yes	Approval.
	Major non-CTG NO _x Sources .....	.....	Yes	Approval.

V. 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 proposed

action merely proposes to approve state law as meeting federal requirements and does not impose additional requirements beyond those imposed by state law. For that reason, this proposed action:

- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993);

• Is not subject to Executive Order 14192 (90 FR 9065, February 6, 2025) because SIP actions are exempt from review 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 certified 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 subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997) because it proposes to approve a state program;

- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to Executive Order 13211 (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001); and

- 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.

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).

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

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

Dated: February 3, 2026.

Michael Martucci,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region IX.

[FR Doc. 2026–02845 Filed 2–11–26; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA–R02–OAR–2025–0256; FRL–12788–01–R2]

Air Plan Approval; New York; New York Metropolitan Area Second Ten-Year Limited Maintenance Plan for the 2006 24-Hour PM_{2.5} Standard

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to approve, under the Clean Air Act (CAA), the

limited maintenance plan (LMP) for the 2006 PM_{2.5} national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) for ten counties which comprise the New York portion of the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island (NY-NJ-CT) 2006 PM_{2.5} NAAQS maintenance area. This LMP was submitted on October 15, 2024 by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The plan addresses the second ten-year maintenance period for particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to a nominal 2.5 micrometers, known as PM_{2.5}. The EPA is proposing approval of New York's LMP submission because it provides for the maintenance of the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS through the end of the second ten-year portion of the maintenance period. In addition, the EPA completed the adequacy review process of this New York PM_{2.5} LMP for transportation conformity purposes on September 4, 2025.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before March 16, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–R02–OAR–2025–0256 at <https://www.regulations.gov> (our preferred method) or the other submission methods identified in the link below. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from the docket. EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit to EPA's docket at <https://www.regulations.gov> any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI), Proprietary Business Information (PBI), or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.*, on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). Please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets> for additional submission methods; the full EPA public comment policy; information about CBI, PBI, or multimedia submissions; and general guidance on making effective comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Blythe Reder, Environmental Protection Agency, Air Programs Branch, Region 2, 290 Broadway, New York, New York 10007–1866, telephone number: (212) 637–3678, email address: rededer.blythe@epa.gov.

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I. Background and Purpose

A. The PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

The EPA has established NAAQS for particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers, known as PM_{2.5}, to protect human health and the environment. In 1997, EPA established the first PM_{2.5} standards based on significant scientific evidence and health studies demonstrating the serious health effects associated with exposure to PM_{2.5}. See 62 FR 38652, July 18, 1997. EPA set an annual standard of 15.0 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³) and a 24-hour (or daily) standard of 65 µg/m³. In 2006, EPA strengthened the 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS by revising it to 35 µg/m³ and retained the level of the annual PM_{2.5} standard at 15.0 µg/m³. See 71 FR 61144, October 17, 2006. Subsequently, in 2012, EPA established an annual primary PM_{2.5} NAAQS at 12.0 µg/m³ and retained the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS at 35 µg/m³. See 78 FR 3086, January 15, 2013. In a rule that became effective on October 24, 2016, EPA revoked the 1997 primary annual PM_{2.5} standard in lieu of the more stringent 2012 primary annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS. See 81 FR 58010, August 24, 2016. In early 2024, EPA strengthened the level of the annual primary PM_{2.5} standard to 9.0 µg/m³ and retained the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS at 35 µg/m³.¹ See 89 FR 16202, March 6, 2024.

¹ The PM_{2.5} 2024 NAAQS is currently being reconsidered. See, e.g., “Trump EPA Announces Path Forward on National Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) to Aid Manufacturing, Small Businesses,” Mar. 12, 2025, at <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/trump-epa-announces-path-forward-national-air-quality-standards-particulate-matter>.