

J. Executive Order 12898: Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations

Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629 (Feb. 16, 1994)) establishes Federal executive policy on environmental justice. Its main provision directs Federal agencies, to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, to make environmental justice part of their mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States.

EPA has determined that this proposal will not have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations because it will not affect the level of protection provided to human health or the environment. This rule modifies previously established deadlines under the Exceptional Events Rule and does not impose any new obligations or enforceable duties on any state, local or tribal governments or the private sector. It will neither increase nor decrease environmental protection.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 50

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, National parks, Wilderness areas.

Dated: September 30, 2008.

Stephen L. Johnson,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. E8-23524 Filed 10-3-08; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R04-OAR-2005-0534; FRL-8725-3]

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans North Carolina: Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Nonattainment New Source Review Rules; Extension of Comment Period

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: EPA is extending the comment period for a proposed rule published September 9, 2008 (73 FR 52226). On September 9, 2008, EPA proposed to approve revisions to the

North Carolina State Implementation Plan (SIP) submitted by the State of North Carolina in three submittals dated November 30, 2005, March 16, 2007, and June 20, 2008. The proposed revisions modify North Carolina's Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Nonattainment New Source Review permitting regulations in the SIP to address changes to the federal New Source Review (NSR) regulations, which were promulgated by EPA on December 31, 2002, and reconsidered with minor changes on November 7, 2003 (collectively, these two final actions are referred to as the "2002 NSR Reform Rules"). In addition, the proposed revisions address an update to the NSR regulations promulgated by EPA on November 29, 2005 ("Ozone Implementation NSR update") relating to the implementation of the 1997 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). At the request of several commentors, EPA is extending the comment period through November 10, 2008.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before November 10, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted to: Ms. Yolanda Adams, Air Permits Section, Air Planning Branch, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. Telephone number: (404) 562-9214; e-mail address: adams.yolanda@epa.gov. Additional instructions to comment can be found in the notice of proposed rulemaking published September 9, 2008 (73 FR 52226).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding the North Carolina State Implementation Plan, contact Ms. Nacosta Ward, Regulatory Development Section, Air Planning Branch, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. Telephone number: (404) 562-9140; e-mail address: ward.nacosta@epa.gov. For information regarding New Source Review, contact Ms. Yolanda Adams, Air Permits Section, at the same address above. Telephone number: (404) 562-9214; e-mail address: adams.yolanda@epa.gov.

Dated: September 26, 2008.

J. I. Palmer, Jr.,

Regional Administrator, Region 4.

[FR Doc. E8-23553 Filed 10-3-08; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R04-OAR-2006-0649; FRL-8725-2]

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Georgia; Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Nonattainment New Source Review Rules; Extension of Comment Period

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: EPA is extending the comment period for a proposed rule published September 4, 2008 (73 FR 51606). On September 4, 2008, EPA proposed to partially approve and disapprove portions of revisions to the Georgia State Implementation Plan (SIP) submitted by the State of Georgia in three submittals dated October 31, 2006, March 5, 2007, and August 22, 2007. The proposed revisions modify Georgia's Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Nonattainment New Source Review permitting rules in the SIP to address changes to the federal New Source Review (NSR) regulations, which were promulgated by EPA on December 31, 2002, and reconsidered with minor changes on November 7, 2003 (collectively, these two final actions are referred to as the "2002 NSR Reform Rules"). At the request of several commentors, EPA is extending the comment period through November 5, 2008.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before November 5, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted to: Ms. Kelly Fortin, Air Permits Section, Air Planning Branch, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. Telephone number: (404) 562-9117; e-mail address: fortin.kelly@epa.gov. Additional instructions to comment can be found in the notice of proposed rulemaking published September 4, 2008 (73 FR 51606).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding the Georgia State Implementation Plan, contact Ms. Stacy Harder, Regulatory Development Section, Air Planning Branch, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. Telephone number: (404) 562-9042;

e-mail address: harder.stacy@epa.gov. For information regarding New Source Review, contact Ms. Kelly Fortin, Air Permits Section, at the same address above. Telephone number: (404) 562-9117; e-mail address: fortin.kelly@epa.gov.

Dated: September 26, 2008.

J.I. Palmer, Jr.,

Regional Administrator, Region 4.

[FR Doc. E8-23554 Filed 10-3-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

43 CFR Part 403

RIN 1006-AA53

Bureau of Reclamation Loan Guarantees

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) proposes this rule establishing eligibility criteria and program requirements for loan guarantees authorized by the Twenty-first Century Water Works Act (Title II of Pub. L. 109-451; 43 U.S.C. 2421-2434) (Act). This rule is intended to define for potential participants how the loan guarantees authorized by the Act will be administered. The Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to make loan guarantees for three categories of projects:

Category (A) projects are rural water supply projects as defined in section 102(9) of the Reclamation Rural Water Supply Act of 2006 (Title I of Pub. L. 109-451; 43 U.S.C. 2401-2409) (Rural Water Supply Act of 2006);

A category (B) project is an extraordinary operation and maintenance activity for, or the rehabilitation or replacement of, a facility that is authorized by Federal reclamation laws and constructed by the United States under such law; or in connection with which there is a repayment or water service contract executed by the United States under Federal reclamation law; or

A category (C) project is an improvement to water infrastructure directly associated with a reclamation project that, based on a determination of the Secretary improves water management; and fulfills other Federal goals.

For purposes of this rule, these will be referred to as category (A), (B), or (C)

projects. The Act provides that, subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of the Interior may provide loan guarantees for eligible projects. The Act requires the Secretary to develop criteria for determining the eligibility of a project for financial assistance, and to publish them in the **Federal Register**.

The intent of this rulemaking is to meet this requirement, as well as to define for potential participants how the loan guarantee will be administered. Reclamation will administer the program. Reclamation will take into account the comments on this rule in developing final regulations. Reclamation recognizes that the rule will be modified in the future to more specifically address category (A) projects and to address modifications in administration as a result of experience gained through the first requests.

DATES: Submit comments on the rule by November 5, 2008. The Office of Management and Budget has up to 60 days to approve the information collection in this rule, but may respond after 30 days; therefore public comment on the information collection must be received on or before November 5, 2008. Reclamation plans to hold informational meetings on the proposed rule and program.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this rule, identified by the number 1006-AA53, by one of the following methods:

—*Use of the Federal rulemaking Web site:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Search on docket identification number BOR-2008-0005 when submitting comments on this rule. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

—*By mail to:* Bureau of Reclamation, Denver Federal Center, P.O. Box 25007, Building 67, Denver CO 80225, Attention: Randy Christopherson, Mail Code 84-55000. Please include the number 1006-AA53 in your correspondence.

Please submit comments on the information collection to the Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior at the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, via facsimile to (202) 395-6566, or e-mail to OIRA_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov. A copy of your comments should also be directed to the Bureau of Reclamation, attention Randy Christopherson at the contact information.

You can obtain copies of the information collection forms by contacting us as specified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Randy Christopherson, Bureau of Reclamation, P.O. Box 25007, Mail Code: 84-55000, Denver, CO 80225. Telephone: (303) 445-2729. E-mail: rchristopherson@do.usbr.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Act, enacted as Title II of Public Law 109-451 on December 22, 2006, authorizes the Secretary to issue loan guarantees to assist non-federal borrowers in financing (A) rural water supply projects; (B) extraordinary maintenance and rehabilitation of Reclamation project facilities; and (C) improvements to infrastructure directly related to a Reclamation project. For purposes of these loan guarantees, the Act defines the authorized non-federal borrower as (a) a State (including a department, agency, or political subdivision of a State); or (b) a conservancy district, irrigation district, canal company, water users' association, Indian tribe, an agency created by interstate compact, or any other entity that has the capacity to contract with the United States.

Authority and responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Act are delegated to Reclamation. Reclamation's rulemaking will establish the eligibility criteria and program requirements for loan guarantees authorized by the Act. Reclamation expects to supplement these rules in the future with eligibility criteria and program requirements specific to those projects described in the Rural Water Supply Act of 2006 that are also deemed eligible for loan guarantees in accordance with section 202(6)(A). Section 202(6)(A) provides authority to issue loan guarantees for rural water supply programs (category A projects). The Rural Water Supply Act of 2006 defines the term rural water supply project to include incidental noncommercial livestock watering and noncommercial irrigation of vegetation and small gardens of less than 1 acre, and projects to improve rural water infrastructure. Rural water projects must receive approval from the Congress prior to construction and are subject to the availability of appropriations. Accordingly, Reclamation expects to target initial solicitations for guaranteed loans pursuant to the Act on Category B and Category C projects and on assistance for operation and maintenance rather than assistance with new construction.