

Agency, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3901.

You can inspect copies of the submitted SIP revisions and EPA's technical support document (TSD) at our Region IX office during normal business hours. You may also see copies of the submitted SIP revisions at the following locations:

California Air Resources Board, Stationary Source Division, Rule Evaluation Section, 1001 "I" Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, 14306 Park Avenue, Victorville, California 92392.

A copy of the rule may also be available via the Internet at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/drdb/drdbtxt.htm>. Please be advised that this is not an EPA website and may not contain the same version of the rule that was submitted to EPA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charnjit Bhullar, EPA Region IX, (415) 972-3960.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This proposal addresses the MDAQMD rule 1161. In the Rules and Regulations section of this **Federal Register**, we are approving this local rule in a direct final action without prior proposal because we believe these SIP revisions are not controversial. If we receive adverse comments, however, we will publish a timely withdrawal of the direct final rule and address the comments in subsequent action based on this proposed rule. Please note that if we receive adverse comment on an amendment, paragraph, or section of this rule and if that provision may be severed from the remainder of the rule, we may adopt as final those provisions of the rule that are not the subject of an adverse comment.

We do not plan to open a second comment period, so anyone interested in commenting should do so at this time. If we do not receive adverse comments, no further activity is planned. For further information, please see the direct final action.

Dated: January 31, 2003.

Alexis Strauss,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region IX.

[FR Doc. 03-4512 Filed 2-26-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[MD141/142-3095b; FRL-7450-1]

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Miscellaneous Revisions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA proposes to approve two State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions submitted by the State of Maryland. One revision removes from the SIP the state ambient air quality standard for hydrocarbons. The other revision removes an outdated citation of a current SIP provision regarding the granting of visible emissions exceptions by control officers. In the Final Rules section of this **Federal Register**, EPA is approving the State's SIP submittal as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial submittal and anticipates no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no adverse comments are received in response to this action, no further activity is contemplated. If EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. EPA will not institute a second comment period. Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing by March 31, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to Harold A. Frankford, Mailcode 3AP20, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103. Copies of the documents relevant to this action are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Air Protection Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103; and the Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 705, Baltimore, Maryland 21230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harold A. Frankford, (215) 814-2108, or by e-mail at frankford.harold@epa.gov. Please note that while questions may be posed via telephone and e-mail, formal comments must be submitted in writing, as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For further information, please see the information provided in the direct final action, with the same title, that is located in the "Rules and Regulations" section of this **Federal Register** publication. Please note that if EPA receives adverse comment on an amendment, paragraph, or section of this rule and if that provision may be severed from the remainder of the rule, EPA may adopt as final those provisions of the rule that are not the subject of an adverse comment.

Dated: February 4, 2003.

Thomas C. Voltaggio,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region III.

[FR Doc. 03-4515 Filed 2-26-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 62

[Region II Docket No. VI4-249B; FRL-7455-4]

Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities; Virgin Islands

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to approve a negative declaration submitted by the Government of the United States Virgin Islands. The negative declaration satisfies EPA's promulgated Emission Guidelines (EG) for existing commercial and industrial solid waste incineration (CISWI) units. In accordance with the EG, states are not required to submit a plan to implement and enforce the EG if there are no existing CISWI units in the state and it submits a negative declaration letter in place of the State Plan. In the "Rules and Regulations" section of this **Federal Register**, EPA is approving the Virgin Islands submittal as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial submittal and anticipates no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule.

If EPA receives no adverse comments, EPA will not take further action on this proposed rule. If EPA receives adverse comments, EPA will withdraw the direct final rule and it will not take effect. EPA will address all public comments in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. The EPA will not institute a second comment period on this action. Any parties

interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before March 31, 2003.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to: Raymond Werner, Chief, Air Programs Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, Region II Office, 290 Broadway, New York, New York 10007-1866.

A copy of the Virgin Islands submittal is available for inspection at the Region 2 Office in New York City. Those interested in inspecting the submittal must arrange an appointment in advance by calling (212) 637-4249. Alternatively, appointments may be arranged via e-mail by sending a message to Demian P. Ellis at Ellis.Demian@epa.gov. The office address is 290 Broadway, Air Programs Branch, 25th Floor, New York, New York 10007-1866.

A copy of the Virgin Islands submittal is also available for inspection at the following location: Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Protection, Cyril E. King Airport, Terminal Building, 2nd Floor, St. Thomas, USVI, 00802.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Demian P. Ellis, Air Programs Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, 290 Broadway, 25th Floor, New York, New York 10007-1866, Telephone, (212) 637-4249.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For additional information see the direct final rule which is located in the Rules Section of this **Federal Register**.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to approve a negative declaration submitted by the Government of the United States Virgin Islands (Virgin Islands) on October 25, 2002. The negative declaration officially certifies to EPA that, to the best of the Virgin Islands' knowledge, there are no commercial and industrial solid waste incineration (CISWI) units in operation within the Territory. This negative declaration concerns existing CISWI units throughout the Territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands. The negative declaration satisfies the Federal Emission Guidelines (EG) requirements of EPA's promulgated regulation entitled "Emission Guidelines for Existing Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units" (65 FR 75338, December 1, 2000).

Dated: February 11, 2003.

Jane M. Kenny,

Regional Administrator, Region 2.

[FR Doc. 03-4517 Filed 2-26-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 600

[I.D. 021303A]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notification of a proposal for EFPs to conduct experimental fishing; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator) has made a preliminary determination that the subject EFP application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The Regional Administrator has also made a preliminary determination that the activities authorized under the EFP are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP); the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP; and the Bluefish FMP. However, further review and consultation may be necessary before a final determination is made to issue an EFP. Therefore, NMFS announces that the Regional Administrator proposes to issue EFPs that would allow up to two vessels to conduct a supplemental finfish survey, and up to 15 additional vessels to conduct fishing operations otherwise restricted by the regulations governing the fisheries of the Northeastern United States. In order to fund the survey, the 15 additional vessels would be fishing for specific amounts of named species under the Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

DATES: Comments on this document must be received on or before 5 p.m. EST March 14, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on NFI Supplemental Survey EFP Proposal."

Comments may also be sent via facsimile (fax) to (978) 281-9135.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Perra, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978-281-9153.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The application process for an EFP was completed by the National Fisheries Institute (NFI) on January 30, 2003. The experiment, coordinated by NFI in cooperation with Rutgers University and NMFS' Northeast Fisheries Science Center, requested EFPs for up to two vessels to conduct a supplemental finfish survey targeting Mid-Atlantic migratory species, and for up to 15 additional vessels to harvest RSA allocations. The two vessels participating in the research project, and up to 15 additional vessels, would make additional compensation fishing trips, during closed seasons, to land up to the total RSA quota allocation of 67,163 lb (30,465 kg) of summer flounder, 21,325 lb (9,673 kg) of scup, 21,338 lb (9,679 kg) of black sea bass, 140,543 lb (63,749 kg) of *Loligo* squid, 194,413 lb (88,185 kg) of *Illex* squid, 702,712 lb (318,745 kg) of Atlantic mackerel, and 141,900 lb (64,365 kg) of bluefish. However, no fish caught during these compensation fishing trips smaller than the legal minimum size could be sold, traded, bartered, or processed for sale. Landings from such trips would be sold to generate funds that would defray the costs associated with the research projects.

Under the research project, the research vessels would make two trips of several days each, along two transects, and conduct 10 research tows during each trip. One transect would be east of Hudson Canyon and one south of Baltimore Canyon. Sampling would be conducted in March and May of 2003 along each transect at 50 fm (91 m), 60 fm (110 m), 80 fm (146 m), 125 fm (229 m), 150 fm (247 m), 200 fm (366 m), and 225 fm (411 m), with two additional trawl sites added along each of the transects based on the catches of the target species. Primary target species would be summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, monkfish, and spiny dogfish; secondary target species would be skates, yellowtail flounder, winter flounder, lobster, and *Loligo* squid. One tow would be conducted at each station over a fixed distance of 2 nautical miles, with tow speeds of 3 to 3.2 knots. A four-seam box net would be used with a 2.4-inch (6-cm) mesh codend. Careful records would be kept of all gear descriptions so that subsequent surveys can use consistent gear. Scientific research personnel would be on board