

its Transportation Conformity SIP, Regional Haze Implementation Plan, Early Action Compacts, and the 8-hour Ozone Attainment Demonstration for York County, South Carolina portion of the Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill NC-SC nonattainment area. EPA has made the preliminary determination that South Carolina's SIP and practices adequately demonstrate consultation with affected local entities related to the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS when necessary.

IV. Proposed Action

As described above, DHEC has addressed the elements of the CAA 110(a)(1) and (2) SIP requirements pursuant to EPA's October 2, 2007, guidance to ensure that the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS are implemented, enforced, and maintained in South Carolina. EPA is proposing to approve South Carolina's infrastructure submission for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS because this submission is consistent with section 110 of the CAA.

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, EPA's role is to approve state choices, provided that they meet the criteria of the CAA. Accordingly, this proposed action merely approves 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);
- 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 an economically significant regulatory action based on health or

safety risks subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997);

- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to Executive Order 13211 (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001);
- 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; and
- Does not provide EPA with the discretionary authority to address, as appropriate, disproportionate human health or environmental effects, using practicable and legally permissible methods, under Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994).

In addition, this proposed rule does not have tribal implications as specified by Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000), because the SIP is not approved to apply in Indian country located in the state, and EPA notes that it will not impose substantial direct costs on tribal governments or preempt tribal law.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Intergovernmental relations, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Dated: March 7, 2011.

A. Stanley Meiburg,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 4.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R04-OAR-2010-0720-201039 FRL-9282-3]

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alabama; 110(a)(1) and (2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is proposing to approve the State Implementation Plan (SIP), submitted by the State of Alabama, through the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) as demonstrating that the State meets the requirements of sections 110(a)(1) and

(2) of the Clean Air Act (CAA or the Act) for the 1997 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS). Section 110(a) of the CAA requires that each state adopt and submit a SIP for the implementation, maintenance, and enforcement of each NAAQS promulgated by the EPA, which is commonly referred to as an "infrastructure" SIP. Alabama certified that the Alabama SIP contains provisions that ensure the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS is implemented, enforced, and maintained in Alabama (hereafter referred to as "infrastructure submission"). Alabama's infrastructure submission, provided to EPA on December 10, 2007, addressed all the required infrastructure elements for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before April 18, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-R04-OAR-2010-0720, by one of the following methods:

1. <http://www.regulations.gov>: Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.

2. *E-mail:* benjamin.lynorae@epa.gov.

3. *Fax:* (404) 562-9140.

4. *Mail:* "EPA-R04-OAR-2010-0720," 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.

5. *Hand Delivery or Courier:* Lynorae Benjamin, 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. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Regional Office's normal hours of operation. The Regional Office's official hours of business are Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 4:30, excluding federal holidays.

Instructions: Direct your comments to Docket ID No. EPA-R04-OAR-2010-0720. EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change and may be made available online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Do not submit through <http://www.regulations.gov> or e-mail, information that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected. The <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site is an

“anonymous access” system, which means EPA will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. If you send an e-mail comment directly to EPA without going through <http://www.regulations.gov>, your e-mail address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available on the Internet. If you submit an electronic comment, EPA recommends that you include your name and other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD-ROM you submit. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment. Electronic files should avoid the use of special characters, any form of encryption, and be free of any defects or viruses. For additional information about EPA’s public docket visit the EPA Docket Center homepage at <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/dockets.htm>.

Docket: All documents in the electronic docket are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, i.e., CBI 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 in <http://www.regulations.gov> or in hard copy at the 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. 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 to 4:30, excluding federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nacosta C. 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. The telephone number is (404) 562–9140. Ms. Ward can be reached via electronic mail at ward.nacosta@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. Background

On July 18, 1997, EPA promulgated a new NAAQS for ozone based on 8-hour average concentrations. The 8-hour averaging period replaced the previous 1-hour averaging period, and the level of the NAAQS was changed from 0.12 parts per million (ppm) to 0.08 ppm (See 62 FR 38856). By statute, SIPs meeting the requirements of sections 110(a)(1) and (2) are to be submitted by states within three years after promulgation of a new or revised NAAQS. Sections 110(a)(1) and (2) require states to address basic SIP requirements, including emissions inventories, monitoring, and modeling to assure attainment and maintenance of the NAAQS. States were required to submit such SIPs for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS to EPA no later than June 2000. However, intervening litigation over the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS created uncertainty about how to proceed and many states did not provide the required “infrastructure” SIP submission for this newly promulgated NAAQS.

On March 4, 2004, Earthjustice submitted a notice of intent to sue related to EPA’s failure to issue findings of failure to submit related to the “infrastructure” requirements for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS. EPA entered into a consent decree with Earthjustice which required EPA, among other things, to complete a **Federal Register** notice announcing EPA’s determinations pursuant to section 110(k)(1)(B) as to whether each state had made complete submissions to meet the requirements of section 110(a)(2) for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS by December 15, 2007. Subsequently, EPA received an extension of the date to complete this **Federal Register** notice until March 17, 2008, based upon agreement to make the findings with respect to submissions made by January 7, 2008. In accordance with the consent decree, EPA made completeness findings for each state based upon what the Agency received from each state as of January 7, 2008.

On March 27, 2008, EPA published a final rulemaking entitled, “Completeness Findings for Section 110(a) State Implementation Plans; 8-

Hour Ozone NAAQS,” making a finding that each state had submitted or failed to submit a complete SIP that provided the basic program elements of section 110(a)(2) necessary to implement the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS (See 73 FR 16205). For those states that did receive findings, the findings of failure to submit for all or a portion of a state’s implementation plan established a 24-month deadline for EPA to promulgate a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) to address the outstanding SIP elements unless, prior to that time, the affected states submitted, and EPA approved, the required SIPs.

The findings that all or portions of a state’s submission are complete established a 12-month deadline for EPA to take action upon the complete SIP elements in accordance with section 110(k). Alabama’s infrastructure submission was received by EPA on December 10, 2007, and was determined to be complete on March 27, 2008. Alabama was among other states that did not receive findings of failure to submit because it had provided a complete submission to EPA to address the infrastructure elements for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS by March 1, 2008. Today’s action is proposing to approve Alabama’s infrastructure submission for which EPA made the completeness determination on March 27, 2008. This action is not approving any specific rule, but rather proposing that Alabama’s already approved SIP meets certain CAA requirements.

II. What elements are required under Sections 110(a)(1) and (2)?

Section 110(a) of the CAA requires states to submit SIPs to provide for the implementation, maintenance, and enforcement of a new or revised NAAQS within three years following the promulgation of such NAAQS, or within such shorter period as EPA may prescribe. Section 110(a) imposes the obligation upon states to make a SIP submission to EPA for a new or revised NAAQS, but the contents of that submission may vary depending upon the facts and circumstances. In particular, the data and analytical tools available at the time the state develops and submits the SIP for a new or revised NAAQS affects the content of the submission. The contents of such SIP submissions may also vary depending upon what provisions the state’s existing SIP already contains. In the case of the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS, states typically have met the basic program elements required in section 110(a)(2) through earlier SIP submissions in connection with previous ozone NAAQS.

More specifically, section 110(a)(1) provides the procedural and timing requirements for SIPs. Section 110(a)(2) lists specific elements that states must meet for “infrastructure” SIP requirements related to a newly established or revised NAAQS. As mentioned above, these requirements include SIP infrastructure elements such as modeling, monitoring, and emissions inventories that are designed to assure attainment and maintenance of the NAAQS. The requirements that are the subject of this proposed rulemaking are listed below ¹ and in EPA’s October 2, 2007, memorandum entitled “Guidance on SIP Elements Required Under Section 110(a)(1) and (2) for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone and PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standards.”

- 110(a)(2)(A): Emission limits and other control measures.
- 110(a)(2)(B): Ambient air quality monitoring/data system.
- 110(a)(2)(C): Program for enforcement of control measures.²
- 110(a)(2)(D): Interstate transport.³
- 110(a)(2)(E): Adequate resources.
- 110(a)(2)(F): Stationary source monitoring system.
- 110(a)(2)(G): Emergency power.
- 110(a)(2)(H): Future SIP revisions.

¹ Two elements identified in section 110(a)(2) are not governed by the three year submission deadline of section 110(a)(1) because SIPs incorporating necessary local nonattainment area controls are not due within three years after promulgation of a new or revised NAAQS, but rather due at the time the nonattainment area plan requirements are due pursuant to section 172. These requirements are: (1) Submissions required by section 110(a)(2)(C) to the extent that subsection refers to a permit program as required in part D Title I of the CAA, and (2) submissions required by section 110(a)(2)(I) which pertain to the nonattainment planning requirements of part D, Title I of the CAA. Today’s proposed rulemaking does not address infrastructure elements related to section 110(a)(2)(I) but does provide detail on how Alabama’s SIP addresses 110(a)(2)(C).

² This rulemaking only addresses requirements for this element as they relate to attainment areas.

³ Today’s proposed rule does not address element 110(a)(2)(D)(i) (Interstate Transport) for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS. Interstate transport requirements were formerly addressed by Alabama consistent with the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR). On December 23, 2008, CAIR was remanded by the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, without vacatur, back to EPA. See *North Carolina v. EPA*, 531 F.3d 896 (DC Cir. 2008). Prior to this remand, EPA took final action to approve Alabama’s SIP revision, which was submitted to comply with CAIR. See 72 FR 55659 (October 1, 2007). In so doing, Alabama’s CAIR SIP revision addressed the interstate transport provisions in Section 110(a)(2)(D)(i) for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS. In response to the remand of CAIR, EPA has since proposed a new rule to address the interstate transport of NO_x and SO_x in the eastern United States. See 75 FR 45210 (Aug. 2, 2010) (“the Transport Rule”). However, because this rule has yet to be finalized, EPA’s action on element 110(a)(2)(D)(i) will be addressed in a separate action.

• 110(a)(2)(I): Areas designated nonattainment and meet the applicable requirements of part D.⁴

• 110(a)(2)(J): Consultation with government officials; public notification; and PSD and visibility protection.

• 110(a)(2)(K): Air quality modeling/data.

• 110(a)(2)(L): Permitting fees.

• 110(a)(2)(M): Consultation/participation by affected local entities.

III. What is EPA’s analysis of how Alabama addressed the elements of Sections 110(a)(1) and (2) “infrastructure” provisions?

Alabama’s infrastructure submission addresses the provisions of sections 110(a)(1) and (2) as described below.

1. *110(a)(2)(A): Emission limits and other control measures:* Alabama’s infrastructure submission provides an overview of the provisions of the Alabama Air Regulations relevant to air quality control regulations. The regulations described below have been federally approved in the Alabama SIP and include enforceable emission limitations and other control measures. Regulation 335–3–1-.03—*Ambient Air Quality Standards*, generally authorizes the ADEM to adopt rules for the control of air pollution in order to comply with NAAQS, including those necessary to obtain EPA approval under section 110 of the CAA. This regulation along with Regulation 335–1–.06—*Compliance Schedule*, set the schedule for compliance to be consistent with the requirements of the CAA. Regulation 335–1–.05—*Sampling and Testing Methods*, details the authority and means with which ADEM can require testing and emissions verification. EPA has made the preliminary determination that the provisions contained in these chapters and Alabama’s practices are adequate to protect the 8-hour ozone NAAQS in the State.

In this action, EPA is not proposing to approve or disapprove any existing state provisions with regard to excess emissions during startup, shutdown, or malfunction (SSM) of operations at a facility. EPA believes that a number of states have SSM provisions which are contrary to the CAA and existing EPA guidance, “State Implementation Plans: Policy Regarding Excess Emissions During Malfunctions, Startup, and Shutdown” (September 20, 1999), and

⁴ This requirement was inadvertently omitted from EPA’s October 2, 2007, memorandum entitled “Guidance on SIP Elements Required Under Section 110(a)(1) and (2) for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone and PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standards,” but as mentioned above is not relevant to today’s proposed rulemaking.

the Agency plans to address such state regulations in the future. In the meantime, EPA encourages any state having deficient SSM provisions to take steps to correct it as soon as possible.

Additionally, in this action, EPA is not proposing to approve or disapprove any existing state rules with regard to director’s discretion or variance provisions. EPA believes that a number of states have such provisions which are contrary to the CAA and existing EPA guidance (52 FR 45109 (November 24, 1987)), and the Agency plans to take action in the future to address such state regulations. In the meantime, EPA encourages any state having a director’s discretion or variance provision which is contrary to the CAA and EPA guidance to take steps to correct the deficiency as soon as possible.

2. *110(a)(2)(B) Ambient air quality monitoring/data system:* Alabama’s infrastructure submission provides information in Regulation 335–1–.04—*Monitoring, Records, and Reporting*, with regard to the requirement of sources to submit emissions monitoring reports as prescribed by the Director. These entities collect air monitoring data, quality assure the results, and report the data. Regulation 335–1–.05—*Sampling and Testing Methods*, details the authority and means with which ADEM can require testing and emissions verification. Alabama regulation 335–3–14–.04—*Air Permits Authorizing Construction in Clean Air: Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permitting (PSD)*, describes the State’s use of ambient air quality monitoring data for purposes of permitting new facilities and assessing major modifications to existing facilities. Annually, EPA approves the ambient air monitoring network plan for the state agencies. On July 1, 2010, Alabama submitted their plan to EPA. On October 8, 2010, EPA approved Alabama’s monitoring network plan. Alabama’s approved monitoring network plan can be accessed at <http://www.regulations.gov> using Docket ID No. EPA–R04–OAR–2010–0720. EPA has made the preliminary determination that Alabama’s SIP and practices are adequate for the ambient air quality monitoring and data systems related to the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

3. *110(a)(2)(C) Program for enforcement of control measures including review of proposed new sources:* Regulation 335–3–14–.04—*Air Permits Authorizing Construction in Clean Air Areas: Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permitting (PSD)*,—of Alabama’s SIP describes the permit requirements for new major sources or major modifications of

existing sources in areas classified as attainment or unclassifiable under section 107(d)(1)(A)(ii) or (iii) of the CAA. This ensures that areas that are in attainment of the NAAQS at the time of designations prevent any significant deterioration in air quality. Regulation 335–3–14–.05—*Air Permits Authorizing Construction in or Near Nonattainment Areas*, sets the permitting requirements for areas in or around non-attainment areas, including any ozone non-attainment area. Additionally, Alabama submitted a SIP revision on June 21, 2006, which addresses the Ozone Implementation New Source Review (NSR) Update requirements to include nitrogen oxides (NO_x) as an ozone precursor for permitting purposes for PSD and nonattainment NSR. Specifically, the Ozone Implementation NSR Update requirements included changes to major source thresholds for sources in certain classes of nonattainment areas, changes to offset ratios for marginal, moderate, serious, severe, and extreme ozone nonattainment areas, provisions addressing offset requirements for facilities that shut down or curtail operation, and a requirement stating that NO_x emissions are ozone precursors. EPA took final action to approve these revisions to the Alabama SIP on May 1, 2008 (73 FR 23957), and finalized a correcting amendment on June 13, 2008 (73 FR 33696).

EPA published a final action revising Alabama's greenhouse gas (GHG) regulations on December 29, 2010 (75 FR 81863). The revisions establish appropriate emission thresholds for determining which new stationary sources and modification projects become subject to Alabama's PSD permitting requirements for their GHG emissions. This rulemaking approves changes to ADEM's Rule 335–3–14–.04—*Air Permits Authorizing Construction in Clean Air Areas: Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permitting (PSD)*, which addresses the thresholds for GHG permitting applicability in Alabama. EPA has made the preliminary determination that Alabama's SIP and practices are adequate for program enforcement of control measures including review of proposed new sources related to the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

In this action, EPA is proposing to approve Alabama's infrastructure SIP for the 8-hour ozone NAAQS with respect to the general requirement in section 110(a)(2)(C) to include a program in the SIP that regulates the modification and construction of any stationary source as necessary to assure that the NAAQS are achieved. EPA is

not proposing to approve or disapprove the state's existing minor NSR program itself to the extent that it is inconsistent with EPA's regulations governing this program. EPA believes that a number of states may have minor NSR provisions that are contrary to the existing EPA regulations for this program. EPA intends to work with states to reconcile state minor NSR programs with EPA's regulatory provisions for the program. The statutory requirements of section 110(a)(2)(C) provide for considerable flexibility in designing minor NSR programs, and EPA believes it may be time to revisit the regulatory requirements for this program to give the states an appropriate level of flexibility to design a program that meets their particular air quality concerns, while assuring reasonable consistency across the country in protecting the NAAQS with respect to new and modified minor sources.

EPA has made the preliminary determination that Alabama's SIP and practices are adequate for program enforcement of control measures including review of proposed new sources related to the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

4. *110(a)(2)(D)(ii) Interstate and International transport provisions:* In Chapter 335–3–14.04—*Air Permits Authorizing Construction in Clean Air Areas: Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permitting (PSD)*, ADEM outlines how it will notify neighboring states of potential impacts from new or modified sources. Alabama does not have any pending obligation under section 115 and 126. Additionally, Alabama has federally approved regulations in its SIP that satisfy the requirements for the NO_x SIP Call. See 67 FR 76316 (December 12, 2002). EPA has made the preliminary determination that Alabama's SIP and practices are adequate for insuring compliance with the applicable requirements relating to interstate and international pollution abatement for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

5. *110(a)(2)(E) Adequate resources:* ADEM is responsible for adopting air quality rules, revising SIPs, developing and tracking the budget, establishing the title V fees, and other planning needs. ADEM also coordinates agreements with local air pollution control programs. Additionally, SIP submittals contain this information in the submittal cover letter. On May 6, 2010, EPA submitted a letter to Alabama outlining 105 grant commitments and current status of these commitments for fiscal year 2009. The letter EPA submitted to Alabama can be accessed at <http://www.regulations.gov> using Docket ID No. EPA–R04–OAR–

2010–0720. Annually, states update these grant commitments based on current SIP requirements, air quality planning, and applicable requirements related NAAQS. There were no outstanding issues, therefore the Alabama's grants were finalized and closed out. EPA has made the preliminary determination that Alabama has adequate resources for implementation of the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

6. *110(a)(2)(F) Stationary source monitoring system:* The Alabama infrastructure submission describes how the major source and minor source emission inventory programs collect emission data throughout the State and ensure the quality of data. This is outlined in Chapter 335–3–1—*General Provisions* of the approved Alabama SIP. Specifically, 335–3–1–.04—*Monitoring, Records, and Reporting*, 335–3–1–.07—*Maintenance and Malfunctioning of Equipment*; *Reporting*, and 335–3–1–.15—*Emissions Inventory Reporting Requirements*, all address portions of this requirement.

Additionally, the National Emissions Inventory (NEI) is EPA's central repository for air emissions data. EPA published the Air Emissions Reporting Rule (AERR) on December 5, 2008, which modified the requirements for collecting and reporting air emissions data (73 FR 76539). The AERR shortened the time states had to report emissions data from 17 to 12 months, giving states one calendar year to submit emissions data. All states are required to submit a comprehensive emissions inventory every three years and report emissions for certain larger sources annually through EPA's online Emissions Inventory System (EIS). States report emissions data for the seven criteria pollutants and the precursors that form them—nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, ammonia, lead, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, and volatile organic compounds. Many states also voluntarily report emissions of hazardous air pollutants. Alabama made its latest update to the NEI February 17, 2011. EPA compiles the emissions data, supplementing it where necessary, and releases it to the general public through the Web site <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/eiinformation.html>. EPA has made the preliminary determination that Alabama's SIP and practices are adequate for the stationary source monitoring systems related to the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

7. *110(a)(2)(G) Emergency power:* The Alabama SIP provides provisions in Chapter 335–3–2—*Air Pollution Emergency* for the identification of air

pollution emergency episodes. Episode criteria and emissions reduction plans are also covered in this chapter. These criteria have previously been approved by EPA. EPA believes these criteria are adequate to address ozone emergency episodes for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS. EPA has made the preliminary determination that Alabama's SIP and practices are adequate for emergency powers related to the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

8. 110(a)(2)(H) *Future SIP revisions*: ADEM is responsible for adopting air quality rules and revising SIPs as needed to attain or maintain the NAAQS. This authority is provided by 335–3–1–.03—*Ambient Air Quality Standards*, giving Alabama the ability and authority to respond to calls for SIP revisions, and the State has provided a number of SIP revisions over the years for implementation of the NAAQS. Specific to the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS, Alabama has provided the following submissions:

- January 27, 2005, SIP Revision (EPA approval, *see* 71 FR 27631, January 25, 2006)—Redesignation request and 175A maintenance plan for the Birmingham, AL 8-hour Ozone Area
- June 21, 2006, SIP Revision (EPA approval, *see* 73 FR 23957, May 1, 2008; EPA correcting amendment 73 FR 33696, June 13, 2008) Clean Air Interstate Rule/New Source Review (NO_x as a precursor to ozone)
- February 6, 2008, SIP Revision (EPA approval, *see* 74 FR 37945, July 30, 2009) Birmingham 8-hour Ozone Contingency Measures

In the Birmingham, Alabama maintenance plans, the State commits to provide additional SIP revisions for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS pursuant to section 175A(b), and also commits to provide additional SIP revisions to implement contingency measures should one of the areas that was redesignated to attainment violate the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS. EPA has made the preliminary determination that Alabama's SIP and practices adequately demonstrate a commitment to provide future SIP revisions related to the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS when necessary.

9. 110(a)(2)(J) (121 *consultation*) *Consultation with government officials*: Alabama's Air Regulation 335–3–1–.03—*Ambient Air Quality Standards*, describes how the State consults with air pollution control agencies in other states whose jurisdictions might be affected by SIP development activities. Additionally, ADEM has submitted for federal approval a regional haze plan which outlines consultation practices

with Federal Land Managers. EPA has made the preliminary determination that Alabama's SIP and practices adequately demonstrate consultation with government officials related to the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS when necessary.

10. 110(a)(2)(J) (127 *public notification*) *Public notification*: The State's emergency episode provisions, discussed above, provide for notification to the public when air pollution episodes occur. Furthermore, Alabama maintains a public Web site on which daily air quality index forecasts are posted for the Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, and Columbus areas. This Web site can be accessed at: <http://adem.alabama.gov/programs/air/airquality.cnt>. EPA has made the preliminary determination that Alabama's SIP and practices adequately demonstrate the State's ability to provide public notification related to the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS when necessary.

11. 110(a)(2)(J) (PSD) *PSD and visibility protection*: Alabama demonstrates its authority to regulate new and modified sources of ozone precursors, volatile organic compound and nitrogen oxides (VOCs and NO_x), to assist in the protection of air quality in Alabama's Air Regulations Chapter 335–3–14–.04—*Air Permits Authorizing Construction in Clean Air Areas: Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permitting (PSD)*. Alabama submitted a SIP revision on March 7, 2007, which addresses the Ozone Implementation NSR Update requirements to include NO_x as an ozone precursor for permitting purposes. Specifically, the Ozone Implementation NSR Update requirements included changes to major source thresholds for sources in certain classes of nonattainment areas, changes to offset ratios for marginal, moderate, serious, severe, and extreme ozone nonattainment areas, provisions addressing offset requirements for facilities that shut down or curtail operation, and a requirement stating that NO_x emissions are ozone precursors. EPA took final action to approve these changes to the Alabama SIP on May 1, 2008 (73 FR 23957), and published a correcting amendment on June 13, 2008 (73 FR 33696).

With regard to the applicable requirements for visibility protection, EPA recognizes that states are subject to visibility and regional haze program requirements under Part C of the Act (which includes sections 169A and 169B). In the event of the establishment of a new NAAQS, however, the visibility and regional haze program requirements under part C do not

change. Thus, EPA finds that there is no new visibility obligation “triggered” under section 110(a)(2)(J) when a new NAAQS becomes effective. This would be the case even in the event a secondary PM_{2.5} NAAQS for visibility is established, because this NAAQS would not affect visibility requirements under part C. Alabama has submitted SIP revisions for approval to satisfy the requirements of the CAA section 169A, and the regional haze and best available retrofit technology rules contained in 40 CFR 51.308. These revisions are currently under review and will be acted on in a separate action. EPA has made the preliminary determination that Alabama's SIP and practices adequately demonstrate the State's ability to implement PSD programs and to provide for visibility protection related to the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS when necessary.

12. 110(a)(2)(K) *Air quality and modeling/data*: Alabama has the authority to conduct air quality modeling and report the results of such modeling to EPA, as contained in Alabama Air Regulations 335–3–14–.04—*Air Permits Authorizing Construction in Clean Air Areas: Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permitting (PSD)*. These regulations also show that ambient ozone monitoring is used, in conjunction with pre- and post-construction ambient air monitoring, to track local and regional scale changes in ozone concentrations. These regulations further demonstrate that Alabama has the authority to provide relevant data for the purpose of predicting the effect on ambient air quality of the 8-hour ozone NAAQS. Additionally, Alabama supports a regional effort to coordinate the development of emissions inventories and conduct regional modeling for several NAAQS, including the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS, for the Southeastern states. Taken as a whole, Alabama's air quality regulations demonstrate that ADEM has the authority to provide relevant data for the purpose of predicting the effect on ambient air quality of the 8-hour ozone NAAQS. EPA has made the preliminary determination that Alabama's SIP and practices adequately demonstrate the State's ability to provide for air quality and modeling, along with analysis of the associated data, related to the 1997 8-hour NAAQS when necessary.

13. 110(a)(2)(L) *Permitting fees*: Alabama addresses the review of construction permits as previously discussed in 110(a)(2)(C). Permitting fees are collected through the state's title V fees program, which has been federally approved, and according to State regulations in 335–3–16–.04—

Permit Application Requirements. EPA has made the preliminary determination that Alabama's SIP and practices adequately provide for permitting fees related to the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS when necessary.

14. 110(a)(2)(M) *Consultation/participation by affected local entities:* ADEM coordinates with local governments affected by the SIP. Alabama's SIP also includes a description of the public participation process for SIP development. Alabama has consulted with local entities for the development of transportation conformity and has worked with the Federal Land Managers as a requirement of its regional haze rule. More specifically, Alabama adopted State-wide consultation procedures for the implementation of transportation conformity which includes the consideration of the development of mobile inventories for SIP development and the requirements that link transportation planning and air quality planning in nonattainment and maintenance areas. These consultation and participation procedures have been approved in the Alabama SIP as non-regulatory provisions, "Alabama Interagency Transportation Conformity Memorandum of Agreement" and "Conformity SIP for Birmingham and Jackson County." These provisions were approved on May 11, 2000 and March 26, 2009, respectively. See 65 FR 30362 and 74 FR 13118. Required partners covered by Alabama's consultation procedures include federal, state and local transportation and air quality agency officials. The state and local transportation agency officials are most directly impacted by transportation conformity requirements and are required to provide public involvement for their activities including the analysis which shows how they meet transportation conformity requirements. EPA has made the preliminary determination that Alabama's SIP and practices adequately demonstrate consultation/by affected local entities related to the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS when necessary.

IV. Proposed Action

As described above, ADEM has addressed the elements of the CAA 110(a)(1) and (2) SIP requirements pursuant to EPA's October 2, 2007, guidance to ensure that the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS are implemented, enforced, and maintained in Alabama. EPA is proposing to approve Alabama's infrastructure submission for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS because this submission is consistent with section 110 of the CAA.

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, EPA's role is to approve state choices, provided that they meet the criteria of the CAA. Accordingly, this proposed action merely approves 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);
 - 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 an economically significant regulatory action based on health or safety risks subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997);
 - Is not a significant regulatory action subject to Executive Order 13211 (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001);
 - 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; and
 - Does not provide EPA with the discretionary authority to address, as appropriate, disproportionate human health or environmental effects, using practicable and legally permissible methods, under Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994).
- In addition, this rule does not have tribal implications as specified by Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000), because the SIP is not approved to apply in Indian country located in the state, and EPA notes that it will not impose substantial direct costs on tribal governments or preempt tribal law.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Intergovernmental relations, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Dated: March 7, 2011.

A. Stanley Meiburg,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 4.

[FR Doc. 2011-6229 Filed 3-16-11; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0046; FRL-9282-9]

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of California; Interstate Transport of Pollution; Significant Contribution to Nonattainment and Interference With Maintenance Requirements

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is proposing to approve the State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the State of California for the purpose of addressing the interstate transport provisions of Clean Air Act (CAA) section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) for the 1997 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS or standards) and the 1997 fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) NAAQS. Section 110(a)(2)(D)(i) of the CAA requires that each state have adequate provisions to prohibit air emissions from adversely affecting air quality in other states through interstate transport. EPA is proposing to approve California's SIP revision for the 1997 8-hour ozone and 1997 PM_{2.5} NAAQS as meeting the requirements of CAA section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) to prohibit emissions that will contribute significantly to nonattainment of the these standards in any other state and to prohibit emissions that will interfere with maintenance of these standards by any other state.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before April 18, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID Number EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0046, by one of the following methods:

1. <http://www.regulations.gov>: Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.