

(iii) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection is estimated at 1000 hours per response. The 14 estimated respondents are expected to be subject to 2 responses per year. The cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information is estimated at \$33.00 total capital and start-up cost component annualized over its expected useful life, and a \$241.00 total operation and maintenance component. Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Dated: April 4, 2001.

David N. Lyons,

*Acting Director, Compliance Assistance
Sector Programs Division, Office of
Compliance.*

[FR Doc. 01-9054 Filed 4-11-01; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6965-8]

Adequacy Status of Motor Vehicle Budgets in Submitted State Implementation Plans for Transportation Conformity Purposes; Maryland; Revised Phase II Plan for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Trenton Ozone Nonattainment Area (Cecil County)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of adequacy status.

SUMMARY: EPA is announcing that the revised motor vehicle emissions budgets contained in the revised Phase II Plan for the Maryland portion (Cecil County) of the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Trenton Ozone Nonattainment Area are adequate for transportation conformity purposes. On December 28, 2000, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) submitted its revised Phase II Plan to EPA as State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision. Maryland revised the 2005 attainment plan of its Phase II Plan to amend the motor vehicle emissions budgets of that plan to reflect the benefits of the Tier 2/Sulfur-in-Fuel Rule. The State also revised the 2005 rate of progress (ROP) plan of the Phase II plan to amend the motor vehicle emissions budgets to reflect rule effectiveness corrections and further reductions from the application of graphic arts rules to additional sources. EPA has found the amended budgets in Maryland's December 28, 2000 Phase II SIP revision adequate for transportation conformity purposes.

DATES: The findings that the budgets are adequate were made in a letter dated March 26, 2001 from EPA Region III to the Maryland Department of the Environment. These adequacy findings are effective on April 27, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul T. Wentworth, P.E., U.S. EPA, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA. 19103 at (215) 814-2183 or by e-mail at: wentworth.paul@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Throughout this document "we," "us," or "our" refer to EPA. The word "budgets" refers to the motor vehicle emission budgets for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x). The word "SIP" in this document refers to the revised Phase II Plan for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Trenton nonattainment area submitted by MDE on December 28, 2000. The revisions to the Phase II Plan consist of amendments to the 2005 attainment demonstration plan for the one-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Trenton nonattainment area and to the 2005 ROP plan for the Maryland portion of the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Trenton nonattainment area (Cecil County).

On March 2, 1999, the D.C. Circuit Court ruled that budgets contained in submitted SIPs cannot be used for conformity determinations until EPA has affirmatively found them adequate. On December 28, 2000, the MDE formally submitted a SIP revision to the

Phase II Plan for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Trenton Ozone Nonattainment Area. On January 17, 2001, we posted the availability of the Revised Phase II Plan and the budgets on our conformity website for the purpose of soliciting public comment on the adequacy of the budgets. The comment period closed on February 16, 2001. We did not receive any comments. On March 26, 2001, EPA Region III sent a letter to the MDE which constitutes final Agency actions on the adequacy of the budgets contained in the revised Phase II Plan. Those actions were EPA's findings that the budgets in the revised Phase II plan submitted by MDE on December 28, 2000 are adequate for transportation conformity purposes. As a result of our March 26, 2001 findings, the budgets of the 2005 attainment plan and the budgets of the 2005 ROP in Maryland's December 28, 2000 revised Phase II SIP for its portion the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Trenton nonattainment area may be used for future conformity determinations.

This is an announcement of adequacy findings that we already made on March 26, 2001. The effective date of these findings is April 27, 2001. These findings will also be announced on EPA's website: <http://www.epa.gov/oms/traq> (once there, click on the "Conformity" button, then look for "Adequacy Review of Submissions for Conformity"). The website will contain a detailed analysis of our adequacy findings.

Transportation conformity is required by section 176 of the Clean Air Act. EPA's conformity rule requires that transportation plans, programs, and projects conform to SIPs and establishes the criteria and procedures for determining whether or not they do so. Conformity to a SIP means that transportation activities will not produce new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the NAAQS. The criteria by which we determine whether a SIP's budgets are adequate for conformity purposes are outlined in 40 CFR 93.118 (e) (4). Please note that an adequacy finding for budgets contained in a SIP is separate from EPA's completeness determination of the SIP submission, and separate from EPA's action to approve or disapprove the SIP. Even if we find budgets adequate, the SIP could later be disapproved. We describe our process for determining the adequacy of submitted SIP budgets in guidance memorandum dated May 14, 1999 and titled "Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999 Conformity Court Decision". We followed this guidance in making these

adequacy findings of the budgets in Maryland's revised Phase II plan. You may obtain a copy of this guidance from EPA's conformity web site: <http://www.epa.gov/oms/traq> (once there, click on the "Conformity" button) or by calling the contact name listed in "For Further Information Contact" section of this notice.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q.

Dated: March 29, 2001.

William C. Early,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region III.

[FR Doc. 01-9058 Filed 4-11-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6965-7]

Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter (External Review Draft)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of a draft for public review and comment.

SUMMARY: On or about April 12, 2001, the National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA), within EPA's Office of Research and Development, will make available for public review and comment a second external review draft of the Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter. Required under sections 108 and 109 of the Clean Air Act, the purpose of this document is to provide an assessment of the latest scientific information on the effects of airborne particulate matter (PM) on the public health and welfare for use in the next periodic review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM.

DATES: Comments on the draft document must be submitted in writing no later than July 12, 2001. Send the written comments to the Project Manager for Particulate Matter, National Center for Environmental Assessment-RTP (MD-52), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter (Second External Review Draft) will be available on CD ROM from NCEA-RTP. Contact Ms. Diane Ray by phone (919-541-3637), fax (919-541-1818), or email (ray.diane@epa.gov) to request the document. Please provide the document's title, Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter (Second External Review Draft), as well as your name and address to properly process your request. Internet users will be able to

download a copy from the NCEA home page. The URL is <http://www.epa.gov/ncea/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Dennis Kotchmar, National Center for Environmental Assessment-RTP (MD-52), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711; telephone: 919-541-4158; fax: 919-541-1818; e-mail: kotchmar.dennis@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EPA is updating and revising, where appropriate, the EPA's Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter. Sections 108 and 109 of the Clean Air Act require that the EPA carry out a periodic review and revision, where appropriate, of the scientific criteria and the NAAQS for "criteria" air pollutants such as particulate matter. Details of the EPA's plans for the review of the NAAQS for PM were announced in a previous **Federal Register** notice (62 FR 55201, October 23, 1997). The first external review draft of the Air Quality Criteria for Particulate Matter was made available for public review in October 1999 (64 FR 57884, October 27, 1999). Following that public review period and the ensuing Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) meeting in December 1999 (64 FR 61875, November 15, 1999), the document has undergone revision to incorporate comments from the public review and the CASAC meeting, as well as many recently completed studies on the health effects of particulate matter. After the end of the comment period on the second external review draft, the EPA will again present the draft document for review by the CASAC in a public meeting. A subsequent **Federal Register** notice will inform the public of the exact date and time of that meeting. Following the CASAC meeting, the EPA will again incorporate revisions to the document in response to public comments and CASAC review.

The EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards will prepare a Staff Paper (SP) for the Administrator, drawing on information in the criteria document. The SP will evaluate the policy implications of the key studies and scientific information contained in the criteria document and identify critical elements that EPA staff believes should be considered in reviewing the standards. The SP is intended to bridge the gap between the scientific review in the criteria document and the public health and welfare policy judgments required of the Administrator in reviewing the NAAQS for PM.

Dated: March 30, 2001.

Arthur F. Payne,

Acting Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.

[FR Doc. 01-9057 Filed 4-11-01; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-00713; FRL-6779-3]

Notice of Availability of Regional Environmental Stewardship Program Grants

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA is announcing the availability of approximately \$497 thousand in fiscal year 2001 grant/cooperative agreement funds under section 20 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) as amended, for grants to States and federally recognized Native American Tribes for research, public education, training, monitoring, demonstrations, and studies.

DATES: Applications must be received by the appropriate EPA Regional Office on or before June 11, 2001. EPA will make its award decisions by July 2, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Your EPA Regional Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP) Coordinator listed under Unit V. of this notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general. This action may, however, be of interest to eligible applicants for purposes of funding under this grant program to include the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, any territory or possession of the United States, any agency or instrumentality of a State including State universities, and all federally recognized Native American tribes.

II. Availability of FY'01 Funds

With this publication, EPA is announcing the availability of approximately \$497 thousand in grant/cooperative agreement funds for fiscal year 2001. The Agency has delegated grant making authority to the EPA Regional Offices.