

ADDRESSES: 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., MC 6202J, Washington, DC 20460. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the ICR without charge by writing to the above address or downloading it off the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr> and refer to EPA ICR No. 1736.02.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Gunning at EPA's Natural Gas STAR Program by phone at (202) 564-9736, by email at gunning.paul@epa.gov, or by fax at (202) 565-2254.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected Entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are those which produce, process, transport, and distribute natural gas.

Title: "Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements Under EPA's Natural Gas STAR Program", EPA ICR Number 1736.02, OMB Control Number 2060-0328, expiring on 9/30/2001.

Abstract: Natural Gas STAR is an EPA-sponsored, voluntary program that encourages natural gas companies to adopt cost effective methods for reducing methane emissions. Natural Gas STAR Partners agree to implement cost-effective Best Management Practices, which will save participants money and improve environmental quality. EPA needs to collect information to establish program participation and to obtain general information on new Natural Gas STAR Partners. EPA also uses the information collection to evaluate a Partner's progress and performance, assess overall program results, and develop technical guidance documents for the benefit of the industry. Information collection is accomplished through the use of an annual reporting process that allows companies to report their accomplishments in either a traditional hard-copy format or electronically. Participation in Natural Gas STAR is voluntary. Natural Gas STAR Partners may designate information submitted under this ICR as confidential business information. EPA will treat all such information as confidential business information and will not make the company or agency-specific information collected under this ICR available to the general public. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9 and 48 CFR chapter 15.

The EPA would like to solicit comments to:

(i) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the

functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(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 of information is estimated to average 47 hours per facility. 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.

Respondents/Affected Entities: 90.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 90.

Frequency of Response: varies.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 4,230 hours.

Estimated Total Annualized Cost Burden: \$310,002.

Dated: May 11, 2001.

Kathleen Hogan,

Director, Climate Protection Partnership Division.

[FR Doc. 01-13419 Filed 5-25-01; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[IN 130; FRL-6984-5]

Adequacy Status of Lake and Porter Counties, Indiana Submitted Ozone Attainment Demonstration and Post 1999 Rate of Progress Plan for Transportation Conformity Purposes

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of adequacy.

SUMMARY: In this notice, EPA is notifying the public that EPA has found that the motor vehicle emissions budgets in the Lake and Porter Counties, Indiana (Northwest Indiana) ozone attainment demonstration and post 1999 Rate of Progress (ROP) plan are adequate for conformity purposes. These documents contain motor vehicle emission budgets for VOC for 2002, 2005, and 2007 and for NO_x for 2007. On March 2, 1999, the D.C. Circuit Court ruled that submitted State Implementation Plans (SIPs) cannot be used for conformity determinations until EPA has affirmatively found them adequate. As a result of our finding, Northwest Indiana can use the motor vehicle emissions budgets from the submitted ozone attainment demonstration and the submitted post 1999 ROP plan for future conformity determinations. These budgets are effective June 13, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The finding and the response to comments will be available at EPA's conformity website: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/transp/>, (once there, click on the "Conformity" button, then look for "Adequacy Review of SIP Submissions for Conformity").

Ryan Bahr, Environmental Engineer, Regulation Development Section (AR-18J), Air Programs Branch, Air and Radiation Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, (312) 353-4366, bahr.ryan@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Throughout this document, whenever "we," "us" or "our" is used, we mean EPA. Today's notice is simply an announcement of a finding that we have already made. EPA Region 5 sent a letter to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management on May 9, 2001, stating that the motor vehicle emissions budgets in the Northwest Indiana submitted ozone attainment demonstration and ROP plan for 2002,

2005 and 2007 are adequate. This finding will also be announced on EPA's conformity website: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/transp/>, (once there, click on the "Conformity" button, then look for "Adequacy Review of SIP Submissions for Conformity").

Transportation conformity is required by section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act. EPA's conformity rule requires that transportation plans, programs, and projects conform to state air quality implementation plans and establishes the criteria and procedures for determining whether or not they do. Transportation conformity to a SIP means that transportation activities will not produce new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the national ambient air quality standards.

The criteria by which we determine whether a SIP's motor vehicle emission budgets are adequate for conformity purposes are outlined in 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4). Please note that an adequacy review is separate from EPA's completeness review, and it also should not be used to prejudge EPA's ultimate approval of the SIP. Even if we find a budget adequate, the EPA may later be disapprove the SIP.

We've described our process for determining the adequacy of submitted SIP budgets in guidance (May 14, 1999 memo titled "Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999 Conformity Court Decision"). We followed the guidance in making our adequacy determination.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401–7671q.

Dated: May 14, 2001.

David A. Ullrich,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 5.

[FR Doc. 01–13412 Filed 5–25–01; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ND–001–0008; AD–FRL–6973–1]

Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; North Dakota; Notice of Potential Violations of the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Increments

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Information notice.

SUMMARY: North Dakota has conducted a draft modeling analysis that shows numerous violations of the Class I prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) increments for sulfur dioxide (SO₂) in four Class I areas. Those Class

I areas include Theodore Roosevelt National Park, the Lostwood Wilderness Area, the Medicine Lakes Wilderness Area, and the Fort Peck Class I Indian Reservation. In a March 13, 2001 letter to EPA, the North Dakota Department of Health has committed to refine this modeling analysis and to subsequently adopt revisions to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) as may be necessary to address the increment violations that may be shown by the revised analysis. The purpose of this document is to inform the public of potential increment violations and of the commitments made by the North Dakota Department of Health to address the potential violations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 29, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Relevant documents are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Air and Radiation Program, Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, 999 18th Street, Suite 300, Denver, Colorado 80202–2405. Interested persons should contact the person listed below to arrange for a mutually agreeable time to view these documents.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Platt, Air and Radiation Program, Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, (303) 312–6449.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. What Is the Purpose of This Document?

The purpose of this document is to inform the public of the commitments made by the North Dakota Department of Health regarding draft modeling studies that have shown violations of the PSD increment for SO₂ in four Class I areas. Those Class I areas include Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the Lostwood Wilderness Area, both of which are in North Dakota, and the Medicine Lakes Wilderness Area and the Fort Peck Class I Indian Reservation, both of which are within the State of Montana. In a March 13, 2001 letter to EPA, the North Dakota Department of Health has committed to refine this modeling analysis and to subsequently adopt revisions to its SIP as may be necessary to address the increment violations that may be shown by the revised modeling analysis. Specifically, the North Dakota Department of Health made the following commitments:

- By April 1, 2001—The State will develop an air quality modeling protocol.
- By January 2, 2002—The State will complete its modeling analysis (or within nine months from the time EPA completes its review of the modeling protocol).

- By February 1, 2002—The State will provide EPA with a summary of its modeling analysis.

- By August 1, 2003—The State will complete a SIP revision to resolve the increment issue (if the modeling analysis shows that the increment is exceeded).

Note that EPA is publishing the State's commitments in order to inform the public of the process that the State and EPA are following to address the increment violations modeled by the State. However, this document does not make the State's commitments legally binding.

EPA responded to the State in a letter dated March 28, 2001. Specifically, EPA stated that, in light of the State's March 13, 2001 commitment letter, we will not initiate formal action to call for a SIP revision to address these violations of the PSD increments for SO₂. We acknowledged that the State needs to refine the modeling analysis to better determine the appropriate control strategy(ies) to address the violations, and we will work with the State in its efforts. If the State does not meet its commitments, or if the State and EPA cannot agree on an acceptable modeling protocol or on acceptable control measures, we may decide to initiate a formal SIP call.

II. What Are the PSD Increments?

The purpose of the PSD program of the Clean Air Act (Act), 42 U.S.C. 7470–7479, is to ensure that the air quality in clean air areas remains clean and does not deteriorate to the level of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). The mechanism created by Congress to meet this goal is the establishment of "PSD increments." These increments define the maximum allowable increases over baseline concentrations that are allowed in a clean air area for a particular pollutant. Any increase above this level indicates that significant deterioration of air quality has occurred. Because only emissions increases above the baseline concentration are considered in determining how much increment has been consumed, the amount of increment consumed can only be determined through air quality dispersion modeling, not through direct monitoring of ambient concentrations.

The Act provides for three different classes of air quality protection, to reflect varying levels of protection from significant deterioration in air quality. In the 1977 Clean Air Act Amendments, Congress designated all international parks, national wilderness areas and national memorial parks which exceed 5000 acres in size, and all national parks