

TABLE TO PARAGRAPH (a)(3)

Point 1	29°02'27" N	080°13'48" W
Point 2	28°51'00" N	080°00'46" W
Point 3	28°39'32" N	080°13'48" W
Point 4	28°51'00" N	080°26'49" W

(4) *Tampa Site*. All waters from surface to bottom encompassed within a line connecting the following points: Point 1, thence to Point 2, thence to Point 3, thence to Point 4, and then back to Point 1.

TABLE TO PARAGRAPH (a)(4)

Point 1	28°17'27" N	083°54'00" W
Point 2	28°06'00" N	083°41'02" W
Point 3	27°54'32" N	083°54'00" W
Point 4	28°06'00" N	084°06'57" W

(5) *Tallahassee Site*. All waters from surface to bottom encompassed within a line connecting the following points: Point 1, thence to Point 2, thence to Point 3, and then back to Point 1.

TABLE TO PARAGRAPH (a)(5)

Point 1	29°22'38" N	084°05'20" W
Point 2	29°16'58" N	083°58'55" W
Point 3	29°06'20" N	084°11'12" W

(b) *Definitions*. As used in this section—

Designated representative means a Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP) in the Seventh Coast Guard District; Coast Guard Patrol Commander, including a Coast Guard coxswain, petty officer, or other officer operating a Coast Guard vessel; Coast Guard Representatives in the Merrill Operations Center; and other officers designated by the District Commander of the Seventh Coast Guard District or cognizant COTP.

District Commander means Commander of the Seventh Coast Guard District.

Reentry Services means activities involved in the preparation of a reentry vehicle and payload, crew (including crew training), government astronaut, or space flight participant, if any, for reentry; and the conduct of a reentry.

Reentry vehicle means a vehicle designed to return from Earth orbit or outer space to Earth, or a reusable launch vehicle designed to return from Earth orbit or outer space to Earth, substantially intact.

Space Support Vessel means any vessel engaged in the support of space activities. These vessels are typically approximately 170 feet in length, have a forward wheelhouse, and are equipped with a helicopter pad and lifting crane.

Splashdown means the landing of a reentry vehicle into a body of water.

(c) *Regulations*. (1) Because the safety zones described in paragraph (a) of this section are within the U. S. Exclusive Economic Zone, only U.S.-flagged vessels are subject to enforcement. All foreign-flagged vessels are encouraged to remain outside the safety zones.

(2) In accordance with the general regulations in 33 CFR part 165, subpart C, no U.S.-flagged vessel may enter the safety zones described in paragraph (a) of this section unless authorized by the District Commander or a designated representative, except as provided in paragraph (d)(3) of this section.

(d) *Notification of Enforcement*. (1) To the extent feasible, the District Commander or a designated representative will inform the public of the activation of the five safety zones described in paragraph (a) of this section by Notice of Enforcement published in the **Federal Register** at least two days before the splashdown.

(2) To the extent possible, twenty-four hours before a reentry vehicle splashdown, the District Commander or designated representative will inform the public that only one of the five safety zones described in paragraph (a) will remain activated until announced by Broadcast Notice to Mariners on VHF-FM channel 16, and/or Marine Safety Information Bulletin (as appropriate) that the safety zone is no longer subject to enforcement.

(3) After a reentry vehicle splashdown, the District Commander or a designated representative will grant general permission to come no closer than 3 nautical miles of any reentry vehicle or space support vessel engaged in the recovery operations, within the activated safety zone described in paragraph (a) of this section.

(4) Once a reentry vehicle, and any personnel involved in reentry service, are removed from the water and secured onboard a space support vessel, the District Commander or designated representative will issue a Broadcast Notice to Mariners on VHF-FM channel 16 announcing the activated safety zone is no longer subject to enforcement.

(e) *Effective period*. This section is effective from [EFFECTIVE DATE OF FINAL RULE] through December 31, 2022.

Dated: June 6, 2022.

Brendan C. McPherson,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 2022-12540 Filed 6-10-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110-04-P

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 111

Parcels Prepared in Soft Packaging

AGENCY: Postal Service™.

ACTION: Proposed rule; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service is withdrawing the proposed rule that would have added new subsections to establish parcel salvage standards and to clarify how to measure parcels prepared in soft packaging.

DATES: The proposed rule published on March 24, 2022 (87 FR 16700), is withdrawn effective [immediately or June 13, 2022].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen F. Key at (202) 268-7492 or Garry Rodriguez at (202) 268-7281.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the proposed rule that was published in the **Federal Register** on March 24, 2022, the Postal Service proposed to implement a two-inch maximum of salvage on the length and the width of a parcel prepared in soft packaging and to provide a clarification defining how to measure parcels prepared in soft packaging to generally determine the length, width, and height of the mailpiece.

In consideration of concerns expressed by members of the mailing community during the proposed rule comment period, the Postal Service has elected to withdraw the proposed rule.

Joshua J. Hofer,

Attorney, Ethics & Legal Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2022-12596 Filed 6-10-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R06-OAR-2016-0673; FRL-9878-01-R6]

Air Plan Approval; Albuquerque-Bernalillo County, New Mexico; Excess Emissions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Clean Air Act (CAA, the Act), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to approve a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) submitted on October 17, 2016, on behalf of the

Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board (Air Board). The October 17, 2016 submittal is in response to the EPA's national SIP call on June 12, 2015, concerning excess emissions during periods of Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction (SSM). The submittal requests the removal of the provisions identified in the 2015 SIP call from the New Mexico SIP. EPA is proposing to determine that the withdrawal of the substantially inadequate provisions from the SIP corrects the deficiency identified in the June 12, 2015 SIP call.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 13, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket No. EPA-R06-OAR-2016-0673 at <https://www.regulations.gov> or via email to Shar.alan@epa.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from *Regulations.gov*. The EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. The EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.* on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, please contact Mr. Alan Shar, (214) 665-6691, Shar.alan@epa.gov. For the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>.

Docket: The index to the docket for this action is available electronically at www.regulations.gov and in hard copy at the EPA Region 6 Office, 1201 Elm Street, Suite 500, Dallas, Texas 75270. While all documents in the docket are listed in the index, some information may be publicly available only at the hard copy location (*e.g.*, copyrighted material), and some may not be publicly available at either location (*e.g.*, CBI).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Alan Shar, Regional Haze and SO₂ Section, EPA Region 6 Office, 1201 Elm Street, Suite 500, Dallas, Texas 75270, (214) 665-6691, Shar.alan@epa.gov. Out of an abundance of caution for members

of the public and our staff, the EPA Region 6 office may be closed to the public to reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19. We encourage the public to submit comments via <https://www.regulations.gov>, as there will be a delay in processing mail and no courier or hand deliveries will be accepted. Please call or email the contact listed above if you need alternative access to material indexed but not provided in the docket.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Throughout this document “we,” “us,” and “our” means the EPA.

Table of Contents

- I. Background
 - A. EPA's 2015 SSM SIP Action
 - B. New Mexico's Part 49 Provisions on Excess Emissions
- II. Analysis of SIP Submission
- III. Proposed Action
- IV. Environmental Justice Considerations
- V. Incorporation by Reference
- VI. Statutory and Executive Orders Review

I. Background

A. EPA's 2015 SSM SIP Action

On February 22, 2013, EPA issued a **Federal Register** proposed rulemaking action outlining EPA's policy at the time with respect to SIP provisions related to periods of SSM. EPA analyzed specific SSM SIP provisions and explained how each one either did or did not comply with the CAA with regard to excess emission events.¹ For each SIP provision that the EPA determined to be inconsistent with the CAA, the EPA proposed to find that the existing SIP provision was substantially inadequate to meet CAA requirements and thus proposed to issue a SIP call under CAA section 110(k)(5). On September 17, 2014, EPA issued a document supplementing and revising what the Agency had previously proposed on February 22, 2013, in light of a D.C. Circuit decision that determined the CAA precludes authority of the EPA to create affirmative defense provisions.² EPA outlined its updated policy that affirmative defense SIP provisions are not consistent with CAA requirements. EPA proposed in the supplemental proposal document to apply its revised

¹ State Implementation Plans: Response to Petition for Rulemaking; Findings of Substantial Inadequacy; and SIP Calls To Amend Provisions Applying to Excess Emissions During Periods of Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction, (78 FR 12460) Feb. 22, 2013.

² The term affirmative defense means, in the context of an enforcement proceeding, a response or defense put forward by a defendant, regarding which the defendant has the burden of proof, and the merits of which are independently and objectively evaluated in a judicial or administrative proceeding.

interpretation of the Act to specific affirmative defense SIP provisions and proposed SIP calls for those provisions where appropriate (79 FR 55920, September 17, 2014).

On June 12, 2015, pursuant to CAA section 110(k)(5), EPA finalized “State Implementation Plans: Response to Petition for Rulemaking; Restatement and Update of EPA's SSM Policy Applicable to SIPs; Findings of Substantial Inadequacy; and SIP Calls To Amend Provisions Applying to Excess Emissions During Periods of Startup, Shutdown and Malfunction,” (80 FR 33839, June 12, 2015), hereafter referred to as the “2015 SSM SIP Action.” The 2015 SSM SIP Action clarified, restated, and updated EPA's interpretation that SSM exemption and affirmative defense SIP provisions are inconsistent with CAA requirements. The 2015 SSM SIP Action found that certain SIP provisions in 36 states were substantially inadequate to meet CAA requirements and issued a SIP call to those states to submit SIP revisions to address the inadequacies. EPA established an 18-month deadline by which the affected states had to submit such SIP revisions. States were required to submit corrective revisions to their SIPs in response to the SIP calls by November 22, 2016. Included was a SIP call to Albuquerque-Bernalillo County, New Mexico, and the detailed rationale for the issuance of that SIP call can be found in the 2015 SSM SIP Action and the preceding proposed actions. The EPA is not reopening the 2015 SSM SIP Action here.

EPA issued a Memorandum in October 2020 (2020 Memorandum), which stated that certain provisions governing SSM periods in SIPs could be viewed as consistent with CAA requirements.³ Importantly, the 2020 Memorandum stated that it “did not alter in any way the determinations made in the 2015 SSM SIP Action that identified specific state SIP provisions that were substantially inadequate to meet the requirements of the Act.” Accordingly, the 2020 Memorandum had no direct impact on the SIP call issued to Albuquerque-Bernalillo County, New Mexico in 2015. The 2020 Memorandum did, however, indicate the EPA's intent at the time to review SIP calls that were issued in the 2015 SSM SIP Action to determine whether the EPA should maintain, modify, or

³ October 9, 2020, Memorandum “Inclusion of Provisions Governing Periods of Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunctions in State Implementation Plans,” from Andrew R. Wheeler, Administrator.

withdraw particular SIP calls through future agency actions.

On September 30, 2021, EPA's Deputy Administrator withdrew the 2020 Memorandum and announced the EPA's return to the policy articulated in the 2015 SSM SIP Action (2021 Memorandum).⁴ As articulated in the 2021 Memorandum, SIP provisions that contain exemptions or affirmative defense provisions are not consistent with CAA requirements and, therefore, generally are not approvable if contained in a SIP submission. This policy approach is intended to ensure that all communities and populations, including minority, low-income and indigenous populations overburdened by air pollution, receive the full health and environmental protections provided by the CAA.⁵ The 2021 Memorandum also retracted the prior statement from the 2020 Memorandum of EPA's plans to review and potentially modify or withdraw particular SIP calls. That statement no longer reflects EPA's intent. EPA intends to implement the principles laid out in the 2015 SSM SIP Action as the agency takes action on SIP submissions, including this SIP submittal provided in response to the 2015 SIP call.

B. New Mexico's Part 49 Provisions on Excess Emissions

New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC), Title 20 Environmental Protection, Chapter 11 Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Board, Part 49 Excess Emissions (20.11.49 NMAC) (hereinafter "Part 49") was approved by the EPA into the New Mexico SIP on February 4, 2010, and became federally effective on April 5, 2010.

As a part of the EPA's 2015 SSM SIP Action, the EPA made a finding that certain provisions in Part 49—namely, 20.11.49.16.A NMAC, 20.11.49.16.B NMAC, and 20.11.49.16.C NMAC of the New Mexico SIP—are substantially inadequate to meet CAA requirements, and thus issued a SIP call with respect to these provisions because these provisions provide for an affirmative defense.⁶ Although not part of the finding in the 2015 SIP call, the EPA noted that removal of 20.11.49.16.A NMAC, 20.11.49.16.B NMAC and 20.11.49.16.C NMAC from the New

Mexico SIP would render other sections of 20.11.49 NMAC of the New Mexico SIP superfluous and no longer operative.⁷

II. Analysis of SIP Submission

In response to the EPA's June 12, 2015 SIP call, NMED (on behalf of the Air Board) requested by letter dated October 17, 2016, that the EPA approve the removal of 20.11.49 NMAC in its entirety from the New Mexico SIP, including the three provisions found by EPA's June 12, 2015 SIP call to be substantially inadequate to meet CAA requirements.⁸ The removal of 20.11.49 NMAC from the New Mexico SIP eliminates the provisions related to excess emissions, including the affirmative defense provisions identified in the June 12, 2015 SIP call. EPA believes that removal of 20.11.49 NMAC from the New Mexico SIP will not affect the adequacy of the remaining portions of the New Mexico SIP.

Although not part of the SIP submittal at issue in this proposed rulemaking, the Air Board amended Part 49 on September 14, 2016, to replace the affirmative defense provisions with "state-only" enforcement discretion provisions. EPA has reviewed the language of 20.11.49 NMAC, as amended, and notes that the enforcement discretion criteria apply only to the State's own enforcement personnel and not to the EPA or others.⁹ Therefore, if finalized as proposed, the

⁷ More specifically, EPA stated that "removal of 20.11.49.16.A NMAC, 20.11.49.16.B NMAC and 20.11.49.16.C NMAC from the SIP will render 20.11.49.16.D NMAC, 20.11.49.16.E, 20.11.49.15.B (15) (concerning reporting by a source of intent to assert an affirmative defense for a violation), a portion of 20.11.49.6 NMAC (concerning the objective of establishing affirmative defense provisions) and 20.11.49.18 NMAC (concerning actions where a determination has been made under 20.11.49.16.E NMAC) superfluous and no longer operative, and the EPA thus recommends that these provisions be removed as well." (80 FR 33968, June 12, 2015).

⁸ October 17, 2016, submittal letter from NMED Cabinet Secretary to EPA Region 6 Regional Administrator.

⁹ 20.11.49.16 NMAC states, in part, "The owner or operator of a source who contends that an excess emission occurred during startup, shutdown, malfunction, or emergency may submit to the department a supplemental report . . . The information in the supplemental report may be considered by the department at its sole discretion and is not intended to be enforceable in a legal proceeding by any party or to limit the enforcement authority of any party. 20.11.49.16 NMAC shall not be construed to preclude EPA or federal court jurisdiction under Section 113 of the federal act to assess civil penalties or other forms of relief for periods of excess emissions, to prevent EPA or the courts from considering the statutory factors for the assessment of civil penalties under Section 113 of the federal act, or to interfere with the rights of litigants to pursue enforcement consistent with their rights under the citizen suit provision of Section 304 of the federal act."

New Mexico SIP applicable to sources located in Albuquerque-Bernalillo County will not include specific provisions relating to excess emissions during SSM periods; however, Part 49, as amended, does provide "state-only" enforcement discretion provisions applicable to excess emissions by such sources and how violations related to excess emissions will be handled by state enforcement personnel.

The submittal also includes an analysis to demonstrate compliance with section 110(l) of the Act.¹⁰ Elimination of the Part 49 provisions from the New Mexico SIP is not expected to lead to any emissions increase. Therefore, we do not believe the proposed revisions would interfere with attainment and reasonable further progress, or any applicable requirement of the CAA. Consequently, we are proposing to approve the removal of 20.11.49 NMAC Excess Emissions from the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County provisions of the New Mexico SIP.

III. Proposed Action

The EPA is proposing to approve a revision to the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County provisions of the New Mexico SIP submitted on October 17, 2016, in response to the EPA's national SIP call of June 12, 2015, concerning excess emissions during periods of SSM. More specifically, we are proposing to approve the removal of Part 49 Excess Emissions from the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County provisions of the New Mexico SIP. We are proposing to approve these revisions in accordance with section 110 of the Act. EPA is further proposing to determine that such SIP revision corrects the deficiency identified in the June 12, 2015 SIP call. EPA is not reopening the 2015 SSM SIP Action and is only taking comment on whether this proposed SIP revision is consistent with CAA requirements and whether it addresses the substantial inadequacy in the specific Albuquerque-Bernalillo County provisions identified in the 2015 SSM SIP Action.

IV. Environmental Justice Considerations

Executive Order 12898 (Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, 59 FR 7629, Feb. 16, 1994) directs federal agencies to identify and address "disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects" of their actions on minority populations

¹⁰ See pdf pages 229–233 of the submittal Docket ID No. EPA–R06–OAR–2016–0673 available at www.regulations.gov.

⁴ September 30, 2021, Memorandum "Withdrawal of the October 9, 2020, Memorandum Addressing Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunctions in State Implementation Plans and Implementation of the Prior Policy," from Janet McCabe, Deputy Administrator.

⁵ Section J, June 12, 2015 (80 FR 33985).

⁶ See Affected States in EPA Region VI, section IX.G.4, June 12, 2015 (80 FR 33968).

and low-income populations to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law. The EPA defines environmental justice (EJ) as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” The EPA further defines the term fair treatment to mean that “no group of people should bear a disproportionate burden of environmental harms and risks, including those resulting from the negative environmental consequences of industrial, governmental, and commercial operations or programs and policies.”¹¹ EPA is providing additional analysis of environmental justice associated with this action for the purpose of providing information to the public.

EPA reviewed demographic data, which provides an assessment of individual demographic groups of the populations living within Bernalillo County.¹² The EPA then compared the data to the national average for each of the demographic groups.¹³ The results of the demographic analysis indicate that, for populations within Bernalillo County, the percent people of color (persons who reported their race as a category other than White alone (not Hispanic or Latino)) is significantly higher than the national average (61.2 percent versus 40 percent). Within people of color, the percent of the population that is Hispanic or Latino is higher than the national averages (50.3 percent versus 18.5 percent) and the percent of the population that is American Indian/Alaska Native is also higher than the national average (6.3 percent versus 1.3 percent). The percent of people living below the poverty level in Bernalillo County is higher than the national average (15.3 percent versus 11.4 percent). The percent of people over 25 with a high school diploma in Bernalillo County is similar to the national average (90 percent versus 88.5 percent), while the percent with a Bachelor's degree or higher is slightly higher than the national average (35.3 percent versus 32.9 percent).

Communities in close proximity to and/or downwind of industrial sources may be subject to disproportionate environmental impacts of excess emissions. Short- and/or long-term exposure to air pollution has been

associated with a wide range of human health effects including increased respiratory symptoms, hospitalization for heart or lung diseases, and even premature death. Excess emissions during startups, shutdowns, and malfunctions exceed applicable emission limitations and can be considerably higher than emissions under normal steady-state operations. As to all population groups within the Bernalillo County area, as explained below we believe that this proposed action will be beneficial and will tend to reduce impacts. As discussed earlier in this notice, this rulemaking, if finalized as proposed, would result in the removal of the provisions in the New Mexico SIP applicable to Bernalillo County that provide sources emitting pollutants in excess of otherwise allowable amounts with the opportunity to assert an affirmative defense to violations involving excess emissions during startup, shutdown, and malfunctions. Removal of such impermissible affirmative defense provisions from the SIP is necessary to preserve the enforcement structure of the CAA, to preserve the jurisdiction of courts to adjudicate questions of liability and remedies in judicial enforcement actions and to preserve the potential for enforcement by the EPA and other parties under the citizen suit provision as an effective deterrent to violations. If finalized as proposed, this action is intended to ensure that all communities and populations across Bernalillo County and downwind areas, including people of color and low-income and indigenous populations overburdened by pollution, receive the full human health and environmental protection provided by the CAA through the removal of affirmative defense provisions that have interfered with the enforcement structure of the CAA by raising inappropriate impediments to enforcement by states, the EPA, or citizens. We therefore propose to determine that this rule, if finalized, will not have disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects on communities with environmental justice concerns.

V. Incorporation by Reference

In this action, we are proposing to include in a final rule regulatory text that includes incorporation by reference. In accordance with the requirements of 1 CFR 51.5, we are proposing to incorporate by reference revisions to Albuquerque-Bernalillo County's regulations, as described in the Proposed Action section above. The EPA has made, and will continue to make, these documents generally

available electronically through www.regulations.gov and in hard copy at the EPA Region 6 office.

VI. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

Under the Act, 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 Act. Accordingly, this action merely proposes to approve state law as meeting Federal requirements and does not impose additional requirements beyond those imposed by state law. For that reason, this 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) and 13563 (76 FR 3821, January 21, 2011);
- 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 Act; 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, the SIP is not approved to apply on any Indian reservation land or in any other area where EPA or an Indian tribe has demonstrated that a tribe has jurisdiction. In those areas of

¹¹ <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/learn-about-environmental-justice>.

¹² <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/NM,bernalillocountynewmexico,US/PT045221>.

¹³ *Id.*

Indian country, the proposed rule does not have tribal implications and will not impose substantial direct costs on tribal governments or preempt tribal law as specified by Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000).

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Carbon monoxide, Hydrocarbons, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Lead, Nitrogen dioxide, Particulate matter, Sulfur dioxide, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

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

Dated: June 1, 2022.

Earthea Nance,

Regional Administrator, Region 6.

[FR Doc. 2022–12608 Filed 6–10–22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA–R09–OAR–2022–0131; FRL–9739–01–R9]

Clean Air Plans; Base Year Emissions Inventories for the 2015 Ozone Standards; Nevada; Clark County, Las Vegas Valley

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to approve, under the Clean Air Act (CAA or “Act”), revisions to the Nevada State Implementation Plan (SIP) concerning the base year emissions inventory requirements for the Las Vegas Valley ozone nonattainment area located within Clark County for the 2015 ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS or “standards”).

DATES: Any comments must arrive by July 13, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–R09–OAR–2022–0131 at <https://www.regulations.gov>. For comments submitted at [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). The EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia

submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. The EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.*, on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, please contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. For the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>. If you need assistance in a language other than English or if you are a person with disabilities who needs a reasonable accommodation at no cost to you, please contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lindsay Wickersham, Air Planning Office (AIR–2), EPA Region IX, (415) 947–4192, Wickersham.Lindsay@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Throughout this document, “we,” “us,” and “our” refer to the EPA.

Table of Contents

- I. Background
 - A. Emissions Inventories
 - B. State Submittals
 - C. Public Notice and Hearing Requirements
- II. Clark County’s Emissions Inventory
 - A. Base Year Emissions Inventory for the Las Vegas Valley Nonattainment Area
- III. EPA’s Evaluation
- IV. Proposed Action and Request for Public Comment
- V. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

I. Background

On October 26, 2015, the EPA promulgated a revised 8-hour ozone NAAQS of 0.070 parts per million.¹ In accordance with section 107(d) of the CAA, the EPA must designate an area “nonattainment” if it is violating the NAAQS or if it is contributing to a violation of the NAAQS in a nearby area. In February 2018, Clark County submitted a recommendation based on 2015–2017 monitoring data, requesting that the Las Vegas Valley be designated nonattainment for the 2015 ozone NAAQS.² The EPA approved the request and designated the Las Vegas Valley in Clark County as a “Marginal”

ozone nonattainment zone for the 2015 ozone NAAQS effective August 3, 2018.³

A. Emissions Inventories

Sections 172(c)(3) and 182(a)(1) of the CAA require states to develop and submit, as a SIP revision, “base year” emissions inventories for all areas designated as nonattainment for an ozone NAAQS. The EPA finalized the 2015 ozone NAAQS SIP Requirements Rule (SRR) on December 6, 2018.⁴ The SRR established implementation requirements for the 2015 ozone NAAQS, including requirements for base year emissions inventories under CAA section 182(a)(1). The SRR for the 2015 ozone NAAQS is codified at 40 CFR part 51, subpart CC, and the emissions inventory requirements are codified at 40 CFR 51.1315.

An emissions inventory for ozone is an estimation of actual emissions of air pollutants that contribute to the formation of ozone in an area. Ozone is a gas that is formed by the reaction of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), referred to as ozone precursors, in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight. Therefore, an emissions inventory for ozone focuses on the emissions of VOC and NO_x. VOC is emitted by many types of sources, including power plants, industrial sources, on-road and off-road mobile sources, smaller stationary sources collectively referred to as area sources, and biogenic sources. NO_x is primarily emitted by combustion sources, both stationary and mobile.

Emissions inventories provide emissions data that inform a variety of air quality planning tasks, including the following: establishing baseline emissions levels, calculating emissions reduction targets needed to attain the NAAQS and to achieve reasonable further progress (RFP) toward attainment of an ozone standard,⁵ determining emissions inputs for ozone air quality modeling analyses, and tracking emissions over time to determine progress toward achieving air quality and emissions reduction goals.

For the 2015 ozone NAAQS, states are required to submit ozone season day emissions estimates for an inventory calendar year to be consistent with the

³ 83 FR 25776, 25819.

⁴ 83 FR 62998.

⁵ The RFP requirements specified in CAA section 182(b)(1) apply to all areas classified as “Moderate” or higher ozone nonattainment. At the time of submittal of the Clark County base year emissions inventory SIPs for the 2015 ozone NAAQS, the Clark County area was designated Marginal nonattainment for the 2015 ozone NAAQS and were therefore not required to demonstrate RFP toward attainment of the 2015 ozone NAAQS.

¹ 80 FR 65292.

² Letter dated February 23, 2018, from Greg Lovato, Administrator, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, to Alexis Strauss, Acting Regional Administrator, EPA Region IX.