

via telephone and e-mail, formal comments must be submitted in writing, as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document.

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

Dated: December 23, 2002.

Judith M. Katz,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region III.

[FR Doc. 03-854 Filed 1-15-03; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[OH155-1b; FRL-7425-7]

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Ohio

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The USEPA is proposing to approve, through direct final procedure, oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) rules including an allowance trading program submitted by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA). The implementation plan affects electric generating units (EGUs), non-EGUs and portland cement plants, and was submitted in a letter from the Ohio EPA Director on July 11, 2002, following required public process. The intent of Ohio's action is to satisfy a Federal requirement to develop a plan to control emissions from these categories of sources in order to meet the emissions budget established by USEPA for Ohio during the summer-time ozone control period. USEPA is approving this plan with the understanding that Ohio will make the minor revision to the date in Ohio's rule by which flow control will be triggered. Flow control affects all States in the trading program, and the date by which it is triggered, 2005, must be consistent for all 19 States.

In the final rules section of this **Federal Register**, USEPA is approving the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for NO_x as a direct final rule without prior

proposal because we view this action as noncontroversial and anticipate no adverse comments. If no written adverse comments are received in response to the direct final rule, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this proposed rule. If USEPA receives meaningful written adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. If no adverse written comments are received, the direct final rule will take effect on the date stated in that document and no further activity will be taken on this proposed rule. Any party interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

DATES: Comments on this action must be received by February 18, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be mailed to: J. Elmer Bortzer, Chief, Regulation Development Section, Air Programs Branch (AR-18J), USEPA, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

A copy of the Ohio EPA request for revision to the SIP is available for inspection at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Paskevicz, Environmental Engineer, Regulation Development Section, Air Programs Branch (AR-18J), USEPA, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, (312) 886-6084.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Throughout this document whenever "we," "us," or "our" are used we mean the USEPA.

I. What Actions Are USEPA Taking Today?

II. Where Can I Find More Information About This Proposal and Corresponding Direct Final Rule?

I. What Actions Are USEPA Taking Today?

The USEPA is proposing to approve a revision to the Ohio SIP submitted by the State which demonstrates the Ohio EPA plan will enable affected sources in the State to reduce emissions of NO_x in order for the State to meet the NO_x emissions budget. USEPA is making the approval with the understanding that Ohio will change the year that flow control will be triggered to 2005, from 2006 currently in Ohio's rule.

II. Where Can I Find More Information About This Proposal and Corresponding Direct Final Rule?

For additional information see the direct final rule published in the rules section of this **Federal Register**.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4201-7601q.

Dated: December 13, 2002.

Bharat Mathur,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 5.

[FR Doc. 03-961 Filed 1-15-03; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Parts 63, 258, 260, 261, 264, 265, 266, 270, 271, and 279

[FRL-7439-9]

RIN 2050—AE41

Waste Management System; Testing and Monitoring Activities; Reopening of Comment Period for the Proposed Methods Innovation Rule (MIR)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is extending by an additional 60 days the comment period on its proposed rule (October 30, 2002 at 67 FR 66251) titled Methods Innovation Rule (MIR) and Notice of Data Availability that announced the availability of the new RCRA Waste Sampling Draft Technical Guidance. The original comment period announced in the proposal and notice was scheduled to end on December 30, 2002. Today's notice further extends the comment period on the proposed Methods Innovation Rule and RCRA Waste Draft Technical Guidance until February 28, 2003.

DATES: Written comments on the proposed MIR, or RCRA Waste Sampling Draft Technical Guidance must be submitted on or before February 28, 2003. Comments postmarked after the close of the comment period will be stamped "late" and may or may not be considered by the Agency.

ADDRESSES: Commenters must send an original and two copies of their comments referencing docket number to: EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), Office of Solid Waste (5305T), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters (EPA, HQ), Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460. Comments may also be submitted electronically to: rcra-docket@epa.gov. Comments in electronic format should also be identified by the docket number Docket ID No. RCRA-2002-0025. All electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.