

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**40 CFR Part 70****[FRL-7059-3]****Clean Air Act Full Approval of Operating Permits Program in Alaska****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Direct final rule; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: On July 26, 2001, the EPA published a direct final rule (66 FR 38940) approving, and an accompanying proposed rule (66 FR 38966) proposing to approve, the operating permits program submitted by the State of Alaska. Alaska's operating permits program was submitted in response to the directive in the Clean Air Act that permitting authorities develop, and submit to EPA, programs for issuing operating permits to all major stationary sources and to certain other sources within the permitting authority's jurisdiction.

EPA is withdrawing this final rule due to the adverse public comments received on the proposed approval. In a subsequent final rule, EPA will summarize and respond to the comments received and take final rulemaking action on the operating permits program submitted by the State of Alaska.

DATES: The direct final rule published at 66 FR 38940 (July 26, 2001) is withdrawn September 20, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the documents relevant to this action are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the following location: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington, 98101. Interested persons wanting to examine these documents should make an appointment with the appropriate office at least 24 hours before the visiting day.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Denise Baker, Office of Air Quality (OAQ-107), EPA, 1200 6th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101, (206) 553-8087.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 70

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Air pollution control, Intergovernmental relations, Operating permits, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: September 13, 2001.

Charles E. Findley,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 10.

Accordingly, under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q, the direct final

rule published on July 26, 2001 (66 FR 38940) is withdrawn.

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**41 CFR Parts 101-11, 102-193, 102-194, and 102-195****[FPMR Amendment B-1]****RIN 3090-AG02****Federal Records Management Program, Interagency Reports Management Program, and Standard and Optional Forms Management Program****AGENCY:** Office of Governmentwide Policy, GSA.**ACTION:** Final rule.

SUMMARY: The General Services Administration (GSA) is revising the Federal Property Management Regulations (FPMR) by moving coverage on creation, maintenance, and use of records into the Federal Management Regulation (FMR). A cross-reference is added to the FPMR to direct readers to the coverage in the FMR. The FMR coverage is written in plain language to provide agencies with updated regulatory material that is easy to read and understand.

DATES: Effective October 22, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: R. Stewart Randall, Strategic IT Issues Division (MKB), at 202-501-4469, or Internet e-mail at stewart.randall@gsa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**A. Background**

This final rule encourages Federal agencies to conduct business electronically. Part 102-193, *Creation, Maintenance, and Use of Records*, is being added to the FMR to provide a foundation for General Services Administration (GSA) programs that helps address problems in the management of contemporary records. Both GSA and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) have responsibilities for records management. This final rule references appropriate NARA regulations.

This final rule also makes changes in the operation of the Standard and Optional Forms Program. The Federal Government is moving toward greater use of information technology to allow improved customer service and Governmental efficiency. The

Government Paperwork Elimination Act requires agencies to adopt electronic transactions of information by October, 2003, when practicable. This vision contemplates widespread use of the Internet, with Federal agencies transacting business electronically as commercial enterprises are doing. Members of the public who want to do business this way can avoid traveling to Government offices, waiting in line, or mailing paper forms. The Federal Government can also save significant time and money by transacting business electronically.

Therefore, this rule is intended to facilitate the movement of the Federal Government toward greater automation of the information exchanged using standard and optional forms. This rule also addresses management of standard and optional forms (in either paper or electronic form) and defines standard and optional automated formats. Normally, the most efficient exchange of information is done using automated formats. Thus, this rule encourages agencies, where appropriate, to use automated formats.

Often, an important intermediate step in the Federal Government's evolution to transacting business electronically is the development and use of electronic standard and optional forms. Such forms, while not fully electronic business transactions, can make paper-based information exchanges substantially easier and introduce significant efficiencies for the Federal Government. The part on standard and optional forms encourages the use of electronic forms by Federal agencies to facilitate paper-based transactions, pending their automation. To do that, this rule establishes the policy that agencies should promote the use of electronic standard forms whenever practicable. To assist agencies in assessing practicability, GSA is proposing that paper transactions continue when standard forms are for specialized use (e.g., labels), when there are special security or integrity concerns (e.g., classification cover sheets), and when there are unusual production costs (e.g., special envelopes). The Standard and Optional Forms Procedural Handbook includes a list of those forms that have been exempted from the policy in accordance with these criteria.

This rule also makes changes to the Interagency Reports Management Program to shorten the time between when an agency determines a need for interagency information and when the agency can initiate an interagency report to obtain that information. Agencies will no longer have to get GSA's approval