



6560-50-P

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**40 CFR Part 52**

**[EPA-R04-OAR-2014-0429; FRL-9960-92-Region 4]**

**Air Plan Approval; SC; Infrastructure Requirements for  
the 2012 PM<sub>2.5</sub> National Ambient Air Quality Standard**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking final action to approve portions of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) submission, submitted by the State of South Carolina, through the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC), on December 18, 2015, to demonstrate that the State meets the infrastructure requirements of the Clean Air Act (CAA or Act) for the 2012 Annual Fine Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS). The CAA requires that each state adopt and submit a SIP for the implementation, maintenance and enforcement of each NAAQS promulgated by EPA, which is commonly referred to as an “infrastructure” SIP. SC DHEC certified that the South Carolina SIP contains provisions that ensure the 2012 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS is implemented, enforced, and maintained in South Carolina. EPA has determined that portions of South Carolina’s SIP satisfy certain required infrastructure elements for the 2012 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS.

**DATES:** This rule is effective [insert date 30 days after date of publication in the Federal Register].

**ADDRESSES:** EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket Identification No. EPA-R04-OAR-2014-0429. All documents in the docket are listed on the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) web site. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, i.e., Confidential Business Information or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the Internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or in hard copy at the Air Regulatory Management Section, Air Planning and Implementation Branch, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. EPA requests that if at all possible, you contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section to schedule your inspection. The Regional Office's official hours of business are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tiereny Bell, Air Regulatory Management Section, Air Planning and Implementation Branch, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. Ms. Bell can be reached via electronic mail at [bell.tiereny@epa.gov](mailto:bell.tiereny@epa.gov) or via telephone at (404) 562-9088.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Background and Overview**

On December 14, 2012 (78 FR 3086, January 15, 2013), EPA promulgated a revised primary annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS. The standard was strengthened from 15.0 micrograms per cubic

meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) to  $12.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . Pursuant to section 110(a)(1) of the CAA, States are required to submit SIPs meeting the applicable requirements of section 110(a)(2) within three years after promulgation of a new or revised NAAQS or within such shorter period as EPA may prescribe. Section 110(a)(2) requires states to address basic SIP elements such as requirements for monitoring, basic program requirements and legal authority that are designed to assure attainment and maintenance of the NAAQS. States were required to submit such SIPs for the 2012 Annual  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  NAAQS to EPA no later than December 14, 2015.

In a proposed rulemaking published August 23, 2016 (81 FR 57509), EPA proposed to approve portions of South Carolina's December 18, 2015, SIP submission for the 2012 Annual  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  NAAQS, with the exception of the interstate transport requirements of section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) and (II) (prongs 1, 2, and 4), for which EPA did not propose any action. On August 22, 2016 (81 FR 56512) EPA conditionally approved South Carolina's December 18, 2015, infrastructure SIP submission regarding prong 4 of D(i) for the 2012 Annual  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  NAAQS. Therefore, EPA is not taking any action today pertaining to prong 4. With respect to the interstate transport requirements of section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) (prongs 1 and 2), EPA will consider these requirements in relation to South Carolina's 2012 Annual  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  NAAQS infrastructure submission in a separate rulemaking. The details of South Carolina submission and the rationale for EPA's actions for this final rule are explained in the August 23, 2016, proposed rulemaking. Comments on the proposed rulemaking were due on or before September 22, 2016. EPA did not receive any comments, adverse or otherwise.

## **II. Final Action**

With the exception of the interstate transport requirements of section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) and (II) (prongs 1, 2, and 4), EPA is taking final action to approve South Carolina's

infrastructure submission for the 2012 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS. EPA notes that the Agency is not approving any specific rule, but rather approving that South Carolina's already approved SIP meets certain CAA requirements. EPA is taking final action to approve portions of South Carolina's infrastructure SIP submission for the 2012 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS because it is consistent with section 110 of the CAA.

### **III. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews**

Under the CAA, the Administrator is required to approve a SIP submission that complies with the provisions of the Act and applicable federal regulations. *See* 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 CAA. Accordingly, this action merely approves 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 Orders 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 (Public Law 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 CAA; 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, this proposed action for the state of South Carolina does not have Tribal implications as specified by Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000). The Catawba Indian Nation Reservation is located within the State of South Carolina. Pursuant to the Catawba Indian Claims Settlement Act, South Carolina statute 27-16-120, “all state and local environmental laws and regulations apply to the [Catawba Indian Nation] and Reservation and are fully enforceable by all relevant state and local agencies and authorities.” However, EPA has determined that this rule does not have substantial direct effects on an Indian Tribe because this action is not approving any specific rule, but rather approving that South Carolina’s already approved SIP meets certain CAA requirements. EPA notes this action will not impose substantial direct costs on Tribal governments or preempt Tribal law.

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. section 801 *et seq.*, as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. EPA will submit a report containing this action and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of the rule in the Federal Register. A major rule cannot take effect until 60 days after it is published in the Federal Register. This action is not a “major rule” as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Under section 307(b)(1) of the CAA, petitions for judicial review of this action must be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the appropriate circuit by **[insert date 60 days from date of publication of this document in the Federal Register]**. Filing a petition for reconsideration by the Administrator of this final rule does not affect the finality of this action for the purposes of judicial review nor does it extend the time within which a petition for judicial review may be filed, and shall not postpone the effectiveness of such rule or action. This action may not be challenged later in proceedings to enforce its requirements. *See* section 307(b)(2).

**List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52**

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Particulate matter, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

Dated: March 15, 2017

V. Anne Heard,

Acting Regional Administrator,  
Region 4.

40 CFR part 52 is amended as follows:

**PART 52- APPROVAL AND PROMULGATION OF IMPLEMENTATION PLANS**

1. The authority citation for part 52 continues to read as follows:

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

**Subpart PP—South Carolina**

2. Section 52.2120(e) is amended by adding an entry for “110(a)(1) and (2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 2012 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS” at the end of the table to read as follows:

**§ 52.2120 Identification of plan.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(e) \* \* \*

**EPA-Approved South Carolina Non-Regulatory Provisions**

<b>Provision</b>	<b>State effective date</b>	<b>EPA approval date</b>	<b>Federal Register notice</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
**	**	*	*	*
110(a)(1) and (2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 2012 Annual PM <sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS	12/14/2015	[Insert date of publication in <u>Federal Register</u> ]	[Insert citation of publication]	With the exception of section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) and (II) (prongs 1, 2 and 4)

[FR Doc. 2017-06898 Filed: 4/6/2017 8:45 am; Publication Date: 4/7/2017]