

2. Documentation for the Assertion That Appropriately Applied Existing Technologies Can Reduce Fish Losses to Levels Reasonably Consistent With Wet Cooling Towers With Low-Velocity

UWAG asserts that, at certain sites and under certain conditions, technologies such as wedge wire screens, fine mesh traveling screens with a fish return system, and Gunderbooms can be used at intakes with a capacity commensurate with once-through cooling and can reduce losses from entrainment and impingement to levels reasonably consistent with those of an intake structure with a capacity commensurate with use of a wet, closed-cycle cooling system and an intake velocity of no more than 0.5 feet per second. In the document, "Existing Technologies Which, Appropriately Applied, Can Reduce Fish Losses to Levels Reasonably Consistent with Wet Cooling Towers," April 18, 2001 (see #2-044A in the Docket), UWAG provides data that it asserts supports this position. UWAG also discusses this assertion in the document "Reasonably Consistent," April 20, 2001 (see #2-044B in the Docket). These data and information are intended to support the alternative industry approach discussed in section H.1. of this Notice. EPA is evaluating the UWAG assertions and will consider any public comments on them.

3. Financial Issues That Necessitate Minimal or No Pre-Permit Biological Study

As discussed in the document, "Financial Ramifications of Pre-operational Biological Monitoring Requirements" (see #2-045 in Docket), UWAG asserts that delays associated with EPA's proposed requirements for pre-operational biological monitoring could have significant costs for the facilities required to conduct such monitoring. These costs would include the replacement value for electricity not generated because new facilities did not enter the market as quickly as they might have without the requirement. UWAG also asserts that these delays will increase the costs of financing for a new facility because the lender will be taking a greater risk over a longer term for a facility that does not yet have a permit. EPA solicits comment on specifically how much the cost of financing would increase for a new facility based on such delay and uncertainty. UWAG further asserts that the pre-operational biological monitoring requirement will create an incentive to build plants that are not subject to this requirement and its

associated delays and produce more expensive electricity. These data and information are intended to support the alternative industry approach discussed in Section H.1. of this Notice. EPA is evaluating and invites public comment on the UWAG assertions. EPA is very interested in evaluating any impact these regulations may have on new facility construction. EPA invites the public to provide detailed information on the extent to which a year-long, pre-operational biological monitoring program might lengthen the timeframes for new facility development beyond those normally associated with, for example, site selection, financing, construction, local permitting, and environmental assessments conducted under other federal, state or local requirements.

III. General Solicitation of Comment

EPA encourages public participation in this rulemaking and requests comments on this notice of data availability supporting the proposed rule for cooling water intake structures for new facilities.

EPA invites all parties to coordinate their data collection activities with the Agency to facilitate mutually beneficial and cost-effective data submissions. Please refer to the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION** section at the beginning of this preamble for technical contacts at EPA.

To ensure that EPA can properly respond to comments, the Agency prefers that commenters cite, where possible, the paragraph(s) or sections in the document or supporting documents to which each comment refers. Please submit an original and two copies of your comments and enclosures (including references).

Dated: May 16, 2001.

Diane C. Regas,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Water.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[Docket No. AK-01-003a; FRL-6986-5]

Clean Air Act Attainment Extension for the Fairbanks North Star Borough Carbon Monoxide Nonattainment Area: Alaska

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: We propose to grant the one (1) year attainment date extension request for the Fairbanks North Star Borough carbon monoxide (CO) nonattainment area submitted by the State of Alaska on March 29, 2001. In the Final Rules section of this **Federal Register**, we are approving the State's extension request as a direct final rule without prior proposal because we view this as a noncontroversial action and anticipate no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no adverse comments are received in response to this action, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this rule. If we receive 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. We will not institute a second comment period on this action. Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

DATES: Written comments on this proposed rule must be received on or before June 25, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to: Connie Robinson, EPA, Region 10, Office of Air Quality (OAQ-107), 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101. Copies of documents relevant to this action are available for public review during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at this same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Connie Robinson, EPA, Region 10, Office of Air Quality, (OAQ-107), 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101, (206) 553-1086.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: See the information provided in the Direct Final action of the same title which is located in the Rules and Regulations section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: May 16, 2001.

Charles Findley,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 10.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 81

[Docket No. AK-01-002; FRL-6986-6]

Finding of Attainment for Carbon Monoxide; Anchorage CO Nonattainment Area, Alaska

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).