

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard Captain of the Port Puget Sound published in the **Federal Register** of January 14, 2004, a final rule concerning security and safety zones for the protection of large passenger vessels. Wording in § 165.1317(k) is being corrected to better explain the exception paragraph for the regulation. This document makes the clarification.

DATES: This rule is effective February 8, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

LTJG T. Thayer, c/o Captain of the Port Puget Sound, 1519 Alaskan Way South, Seattle, WA 98134, (206) 217-6232.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Coast Guard published a document in the **Federal Register** on January 14, 2004 (69 FR 2066), adding 33 CFR 165.1317. In this document, paragraph (k) of the regulatory text was not as clear as it could have been. This correction amends the regulatory text published on January 14, 2004.

In rule FR Doc. 04-747 published on January 14, 2004 (69 FR 2066), make the following correction.

§165.1317 [Amended]

On page 2069 in paragraph (k) remove the phrase “the regulations govern” and add in its place the phrase “the measures or directions govern”.

Dated: January 26, 2004.

Steve Venckus,

Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, Office of the Judge Advocate General, U.S. Coast Guard.

[FR Doc. 04-1924 Filed 1-28-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[SC-50-200405 (a); FRL-7614-7]

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Revisions to South Carolina State Implementation Plan: Transportation Conformity Rule

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Direct final rule.

SUMMARY: The EPA is approving the State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the State of South Carolina on November 19, 2003, for the purpose of establishing specific consultation procedures for the implementation of transportation conformity requirements. This SIP revision also incorporates the State's adoption of the Federal transportation

conformity regulations verbatim. EPA is not taking action on portions of the transportation conformity regulations affected by *Environmental Defense Fund v. EPA*, 167 F.3d 641 (DC Cir. 1999), including sections 102(c)(1), 118(e)(1), 120(a)(2), 121(a)(1), and 124(b). The transportation conformity rule assures that projected emissions from transportation plans, improvement programs and projects in air quality nonattainment or maintenance areas stay within the motor vehicle emissions ceiling contained in the SIP. The transportation conformity SIP revision enables the State to implement and enforce the Federal transportation conformity requirement at the state level. This action streamlines the conformity process to allow direct consultation among agencies at the local level. This final approval action is limited to requirements for transportation conformity.

DATES: This direct final rule is effective March 29, 2004 without further notice, unless EPA receives adverse comment by March 1, 2004. If adverse comment is received, EPA will publish a timely withdrawal of the direct final rule in the **Federal Register** and inform the public that the rule will not take effect.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by mail to: Matt Laurita, Air Quality Modeling and Transportation Section, Air Planning Branch, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. Comments may also be submitted electronically, or through hand delivery/courier. Please follow the detailed instructions described in sections IV.B.1. through 3.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matt Laurita, Air Quality Modeling and Transportation Section, Air Planning Branch, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. The telephone number is (404) 562-9044. Mr. Laurita can also be reached via electronic mail at laurita.matthew@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

A. What Is a SIP?

The states, under section 110 of the Clean Air Act as amended in 1990 (Act), must develop air pollution regulations and control strategies to ensure that state air quality meets National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

established by EPA. The Act, under section 109, established these NAAQS which currently address six criteria pollutants. These pollutants are: carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, lead, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide.

Each state must send these regulations and control strategies to EPA for approval and incorporation into the Federally enforceable SIP, which protects air quality and contains emission control plans for NAAQS nonattainment areas. These SIPs can be extensive, containing state regulations or other enforceable documents and supporting information such as emission inventories, monitoring networks, and modeling demonstrations.

B. What Is the Federal Approval Process for a SIP?

The states must formally adopt the regulations and control strategies consistent with state and Federal laws for incorporating the state regulations into the Federally enforceable SIP. This process generally includes a public notice, public comment period, public hearing, and a formal adoption by a state-authorized rulemaking body.

Once a state rule, regulation, or control strategy is adopted, the state will send these provisions to EPA for inclusion in the Federally enforceable SIP. EPA must then determine the appropriate Federal action, provide public notice, and request additional public comment on the action. The possible Federal actions include approval, disapproval, conditional approval and limited approval/disapproval. If adverse comments are received, EPA must consider and address the comments before taking final action.

EPA incorporates state regulations and supporting information (sent under section 110 of the Act) into the Federally approved SIP through the approval action. EPA maintains records of all such SIP actions in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at Title 40, part 52, entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans.” The EPA does not reproduce the text of the Federally approved state regulations in the CFR. They are “incorporated by reference,” which means that the specific state regulation is cited in the CFR and is considered a part of the CFR the same as if the text were fully printed in the CFR.

C. What Is Transportation Conformity?

Conformity first appeared as a requirement in the Act's 1977 amendments (Pub. L. 95-95). Although

the Act did not define conformity, it stated that no Federal department could engage in, support in any way or provide financial assistance for, license or permit, or approve any activity which did not conform to a SIP which has been approved or promulgated.

The 1990 Amendments to the Act expanded the scope and content of the conformity concept by defining conformity to a SIP. Section 176(c) of the Act defines conformity as conformity to the SIP's purpose of eliminating or reducing the severity and number of violations of the NAAQS and achieving expeditious attainment of such standards. Also, the Act states "that no Federal activity will: (1) cause or contribute to any new violation of any standard in any area, (2) increase the frequency or severity of any existing violation of any standard in any area, or (3) delay timely attainment of any standard or any required interim emission reductions or other milestones in any area." The requirements of section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act apply to all departments, agencies and instrumentalities of the Federal government. Transportation conformity refers only to the conformity of transportation plans, programs and projects that are funded or approved under title 23 U.S.C. or the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. Chapter 53).

D. Why Must the State Submit a Transportation Conformity SIP?

A transportation conformity SIP is a plan which contains criteria and procedures for the State Department of Transportation (DOT), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), and other state or local agencies to assess the conformity of transportation plans, programs and projects to ensure that they do not cause or contribute to new violations of a NAAQS in the area substantially affected by the project, increase the frequency or severity of existing violations of a standard in such area or delay timely attainment. 40 CFR 51.390, subpart T requires states to submit a SIP that establishes criteria for conformity to EPA. 40 CFR part 93, subpart A, provides the criteria the SIP must meet to satisfy 40 CFR 51.390.

EPA was required to issue criteria and procedures for determining conformity of transportation plans, programs, and projects to a SIP by section 176(c) of the Act. The Act also required the procedure to include a requirement that each state submit a revision to its SIP including conformity criteria and procedures. EPA published the first transportation conformity rule in the November 24, 1993, **Federal Register** (FR), and it was codified at 40 CFR part

51, subpart T and 40 CFR part 93, subpart A. The transportation conformity rule required the states to adopt and submit a transportation conformity SIP revision to the appropriate EPA Regional Office by November 25, 1994. The rule was subsequently revised on August 7, 1995 (60 FR 40098), and November 14, 1995 (60 FR 57179). The State of South Carolina submitted a transportation conformity SIP to EPA Region 4 on November 8, 1996. EPA did not take action on this SIP because the Agency was in the process of revising the transportation conformity requirements. EPA revised the transportation conformity rule on August 15, 1997 (62 FR 43780), April 10, 2000 (65 FR 18911), and August 6, 2002 (67 FR 50808), and codified the revisions under 40 CFR part 51, subpart T and 40 CFR part 93, subpart A—Conformity to State or Federal Implementation Plans of Transportation Plans, Programs, and Projects Developed, Funded or Approved Under Title 23 U.S.C. of the Federal Transit Laws (62 FR 43780). EPA's action of August 15, 1997, required the states to change their rules and submit a SIP revision to EPA by August 15, 1998.

States may choose to develop in place of regulations, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which establishes the roles and procedures for transportation conformity. The MOA includes the detailed consultation procedures developed for that particular area. The MOAs are enforceable through the signature of all the transportation and air quality agencies, including the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and EPA.

E. How Does Transportation Conformity Work?

The Federal or state transportation conformity rule applies to applicable NAAQS nonattainment and maintenance areas in the state. The MPO, the DOT (in absence of a MPO), State and local Air Quality Agencies, EPA and U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) are involved in the process of making conformity determinations. Conformity determinations are made on programs and plans such as transportation improvement programs (TIP), transportation plans, and projects. The MPOs calculate the projected emissions that will result from implementation of the transportation plans and programs and compare those calculated emissions to the motor vehicle emissions budget (MVEB) established in the SIP. The calculated emissions must be equal to or

smaller than the Federally approved MVEB in order for USDOT to make a positive conformity determination with respect to the SIP.

II. Analysis of State's Submittal

A. What Did the State Submit?

The State of South Carolina chose to address the transportation conformity SIP requirements using State rules that incorporate by reference portions of the Federal conformity rule and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that provides the procedures for interagency consultation. The transportation conformity rule, 40 CFR 93.105, requires the state to develop specific procedures for consultation, resolution of conflict and public consultation. On November 19, 2003, the State of South Carolina, through the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), submitted the rules for transportation conformity to satisfy the conformity SIP requirement of the August 15, 1997 (62 FR 43780) conformity rule revision. This submittal also includes the revisions to the conformity regulations made on April 10, 2000 (65 FR 18911), and August 6, 2002 (67 FR 50808). DHEC gave notice of rule-making proceedings to the public on August 22, 2003 and held a public hearing on September 22, 2003. These amendments to the South Carolina Code of Regulations Chapter 61 became effective October 24, 2003.

B. What Is EPA Approving Today and Why?

EPA is approving the South Carolina transportation conformity rule submitted to the EPA Region 4 office on November 19, 2003, by the Deputy Commissioner of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, with the exception of portions of the transportation conformity regulations affected by *Environmental Defense Fund v. EPA*, 167 F.3d 641 (D.C. Cir. 1999), including sections 102(c)(1), 118(e)(1), 120(a)(2), 121(a)(1), and 124(b).

EPA has evaluated this SIP revision and determined that the SIP requirements of the Federal transportation conformity rule, as described in 40 CFR part 51, subpart T and 40 CFR part 93, subpart A, have been met. Therefore, EPA is approving this revision to the South Carolina SIP.

C. How Did the State Satisfy the Interagency Consultation Process (40 CFR 93.105)?

EPA's rule requires the states to develop their own processes and procedures for interagency consultation

among Federal, state, and local agencies and resolution of conflicts meeting the criteria of 40 CFR 93.105. The SIP revision must include the process and procedures to be followed by the MPOs, DOT, FHWA, FTA, local transit operators, the state and local air quality agencies and EPA before making conformity determinations. The transportation conformity SIP revision must also include processes and procedures for the state and local air quality agencies and EPA to coordinate the development of applicable SIPs with MPOs, state DOTs, FHWA and FTA.

The State of South Carolina developed a statewide consultation rule based on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed by the Columbia Area Transportation Study MPO, the Greenville Area Transportation Study MPO, the Spartanburg Area Transportation Study MPO, the Augusta Regional Transportation Study MPO, the Rock Hill/Fort Mill Area Transportation Study MPO, Florence Area Transportation Study MPO, the Anderson Area Transportation Study MPO, the Charleston Area Transportation Study MPO, the Grand Strand Area Transportation Study MPO, the Sumter Area Transportation Study MPO, the South Carolina DHEC, the South Carolina DOT, the FHWA South Carolina Division Office, FTA Region 4, and EPA Region 4. The requirement for interagency consultation is currently only applicable to the Cherokee County 1-hour ozone maintenance area, as it is the only area in South Carolina that had previously been designated nonattainment for any NAAQS. The interagency consultation requirement will become effective for any other areas designated as nonattainment under the 8-hour ozone or PM_{2.5} NAAQS. The consultation process developed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control is unique to the State of South Carolina and is enforceable, effective October 24, 2003.

III. Final Action

EPA is approving the aforementioned changes to the South Carolina SIP. EPA is publishing this rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial submittal and anticipates no adverse comments. However, in the proposed rules section of this **Federal Register** publication, EPA is publishing a separate document that will serve as the proposal to approve the SIP revision should adverse comments be filed. This rule will be effective March 29, 2004 without further notice unless the Agency receives adverse comments by March 1, 2004.

If the EPA receives such comments, then EPA will publish a document withdrawing the final rule and informing the public that the rule will not take effect. All public comments received will then be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on the proposed rule. The EPA will not institute a second comment period. Parties interested in commenting should do so at this time. If no such comments are received, the public is advised that this rule will be effective on March 29, 2004 and no further action will be taken on the proposed rule. Please note that if we receive adverse comment on an amendment, paragraph, or section of this rule and if that provision may be severed from the remainder of the rule, we may adopt as final those provisions of the rule that are not the subject of an adverse comment.

IV. Supplementary Information

A. How Can I Get Copies of This Document and Other Related Information?

1. The Regional Office has established an official public rulemaking file available for inspection at the Regional Office. EPA has established an official public rulemaking file for this action under SC-50. The official public file consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to this action. Although a part of the official docket, the public rulemaking file does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official public rulemaking file is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the Regulatory Development Section, Air Planning 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 contact listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section to schedule your inspection. The Regional Office's official hours of business are Monday through Friday, 9 to 3:30, excluding federal holidays.

2. Copies of the State submittal and EPA's technical support document are also available for public inspection during normal business hours, by appointment at the Bureau of Air Quality, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201.

3. Electronic Access. You may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the Regulation.gov web site located at <http://www.regulations.gov> where you can find, review, and submit comments on Federal rules that have been published in the **Federal Register**, the Government's legal newspaper, and are open for comment.

For public commenters, it is important to note that EPA's policy is that public comments, whether submitted electronically or in paper, will be made available for public viewing at the EPA Regional Office, as EPA receives them and without change, unless the comment contains copyrighted material, CBI, or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. When EPA identifies a comment containing copyrighted material, EPA will provide a reference to that material in the version of the comment that is placed in the official public rulemaking file. The entire printed comment, including the copyrighted material, will be available at the Regional Office for public inspection.

B. How and to Whom Do I Submit Comments?

You may submit comments electronically, by mail, or through hand delivery/courier. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate rulemaking identification number by including the text "Public comment on proposed rulemaking SC-50." in the subject line on the first page of your comment. Please ensure that your comments are submitted within the specified comment period. Comments received after the close of the comment period will be marked "late." EPA is not required to consider these late comments.

1. *Electronically.* If you submit an electronic comment as prescribed below, EPA recommends that you include your name, mailing address, and an e-mail address or other contact information in the body of your comment. Also include this contact information on the outside of any disk or CD ROM you submit, and in any cover letter accompanying the disk or CD ROM. This ensures that you can be identified as the submitter of the comment and allows EPA to contact you in case EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties or needs further information on the substance of your comment. EPA's policy is that EPA will not edit your comment, and any identifying or contact information provided in the body of a comment will be included as part of the comment that

is placed in the official public docket. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment.

i. E-mail. Comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to laurita.matthew@epa.gov. Please include the text "Public comment on proposed rulemaking SC-50." in the subject line. EPA's e-mail system is not an "anonymous access" system. If you send an e-mail comment directly without going through Regulations.gov, EPA's e-mail system automatically captures your e-mail address. E-mail addresses that are automatically captured by EPA's e-mail system are included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket.

ii. Regulation.gov. Your use of Regulation.gov is an alternative method of submitting electronic comments to EPA. Go directly to Regulations.gov at <http://www.regulations.gov>, then select Environmental Protection Agency at the top of the page and use the go button. The list of current EPA actions available for comment will be listed. Please follow the online instructions for submitting comments. The system is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity, e-mail address, or other contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment.

iii. Disk or CD ROM. You may submit comments on a disk or CD ROM that you mail to the mailing address identified in section 2, directly below. These electronic submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect, Word or ASCII file format. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

2. By Mail. Send your comments to: Matt Laurita, Air Quality Modeling and Transportation Section, Air Planning Branch, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. Please include the text "Public comment on proposed rulemaking SC-50." in the subject line on the first page of your comment.

3. By Hand Delivery or Courier. Deliver your comments to: Matt Laurita, Air Quality Modeling and Transportation Section, Air Planning Branch, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division 12th floor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Regional Office's normal hours of operation. The Regional Office's official hours of business are Monday through

Friday, 9 to 3:30, excluding Federal holidays.

C. How Should I Submit Confidential Business Information (CBI) to the Agency?

Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI electronically to EPA. You may claim information that you submit to EPA as CBI by marking any part or all of that information as CBI (if you submit CBI on disk or CD ROM, mark the outside of the disk or CD ROM as CBI and then identify electronically within the disk or CD ROM the specific information that is CBI). Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2.

In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes any information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the official public regional rulemaking file. If you submit the copy that does not contain CBI on disk or CD ROM, mark the outside of the disk or CD ROM clearly that it does not contain CBI. Information not marked as CBI will be included in the public file and available for public inspection without prior notice. If you have any questions about CBI or the procedures for claiming CBI, please consult the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

D. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Comments for EPA?

You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your comments:

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.
2. Describe any assumptions that you used.
3. Provide any technical information and/or data you used that support your views.
4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at your estimate.
5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
6. Offer alternatives.
7. Make sure to submit your comments by the comment period deadline identified.
8. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate regional file/rulemaking identification number in the subject line on the first page of your response. It would also be helpful if you provided the name, date, and **Federal Register** citation related to your comments.

V. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

Under Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993), this action is not a "significant regulatory action" and therefore is not subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget. For this reason, this action is also not subject to Executive Order 13211, "Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use" (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001). This action merely approves state law as meeting Federal requirements and imposes no additional requirements beyond those imposed by state law. Accordingly, the Administrator certifies that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). Because this rule approves pre-existing requirements under state law and does not impose any additional enforceable duty beyond that required by state law, it 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).

This rule also does not have tribal implications because it will not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, as specified by Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000). This action also does not have Federalism implications because it does not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government, as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999). This action merely approves a state rule implementing a Federal standard, and does not alter the relationship or the distribution of power and responsibilities established in the Clean Air Act. This rule also is not subject to Executive Order 13045 "Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks" (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997), because it is not economically significant.

In reviewing SIP submissions, EPA's role is to approve state choices, provided that they meet the criteria of the Clean Air Act. In this context, in the absence of a prior existing requirement for the State to use voluntary consensus

standards (VCS), EPA has no authority to disapprove a SIP submission for failure to use VCS. It would thus be inconsistent with applicable law for EPA, when it reviews a SIP submission, to use VCS in place of a SIP submission that otherwise satisfies the provisions of the Clean Air Act. Thus, the requirements of section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) do not apply. This rule does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 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 rule 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 Clean Air Act, petitions for judicial review of this action must be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the appropriate circuit by March 29, 2004. Filing a petition for reconsideration by the Administrator of this final rule does not affect the finality of this rule 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, Carbon monoxide,

Intergovernmental relations, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Particulate matter, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

Dated: January 5, 2004.

A. Stanley Meiburg,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 4.

■ Chapter I, title 40, *Code of Federal Regulations*, is amended as follows:

PART 52—[AMENDED]

■ 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 a new entry at the end of the table for "Transportation Conformity" to read as follows:

§ 52.2120 Identification of plan.

*	*	*	*	*
(e)	*	*	*	*

Provision	State effective date	EPA approval date	Explanation
<div style="text-align: center;">* * * *</div> Transportation Conformity	10/24/03	January 29, 2004 [insert citation of publication]	<div style="text-align: center;">*</div>

[FR Doc. 04–1818 Filed 1–28–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 300

[FRL–7612–8]

National Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Direct final notice of partial deletion of the Hubbell/Tamarack City parcel of Operable Unit I (OUI) of the Torch Lake Superfund Site from the National Priorities List.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region V is publishing a direct final notice of partial deletion of the Hubbell/Tamarack City parcel of OUI of the Torch Lake Superfund Site (Site), located in, Houghton County Michigan, from the National Priorities List (NPL).

The NPL, promulgated pursuant to section 105 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

(CERCLA) of 1980, as amended, in appendix B of 40 CFR part 300, which is the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). This direct final deletion is being published by EPA with the concurrence of the State of Michigan, through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), because EPA has determined that all appropriate response actions under CERCLA have been completed and, therefore, further remedial action pursuant to CERCLA is not necessary at this time.

DATES: This direct final notice of partial deletion will be effective March 29, 2004 unless EPA receives adverse comments by March 1, 2004. If adverse comments are received, EPA will publish a timely withdrawal of the direct final notice of deletion in the **Federal Register** informing the public that the deletion will not take effect.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to: Dave Novak, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA (P–19J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.

Information Repositories: Comprehensive information about the Site is available for viewing and copying at the Site information repositories

located at: EPA Region V Record Center, 77 W. Jackson, Chicago, IL 60604, (312) 353–5821, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Lake Linden/Hubbell Public Library, 601 Calumet St., Lake Linden, MI 49945, (906) 296–0698 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Portage Lake District Library, 105 Huron, Houghton, MI 49931 (906) 482–4570, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brenda Jones, Remedial Project Manager at (312) 886–7188, Jones.Brenda@epa.gov or Gladys Beard, State NPL Deletion Process Manager at (312) 886–7253, Beard.Gladys@epa.gov or 1–800–621–8431, (SR–6J), U.S. EPA Region V, 77 W. Jackson, Chicago, IL 60604.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Table of Contents

- I. Introduction
- II. NPL Deletion Criteria
- III. Deletion Procedures
- IV. Basis for Site Deletion
- V. Deletion Action