

SUMMARY: The EPA proposes to approve the recodification of, and revisions to, the New Mexico State Implementation Plan (SIP). The existing Air Quality Control Regulations (AQCR) have been renumbered and reformatted into the New Mexico Administrative Code as required by the New Mexico State Records Center. In addition to having renumbered and reformatted the regulations, standard administrative changes have been made throughout all AQCRs, and revisions made to seven particular AQCRs. The intended effects of these revisions are to delete obsolete, nonessential, redundant, and technically inadequate regulations; make certain rules and definitions more explicit and; make one particular regulation more closely reflect current New Mexico Environment Department policy.

In the Rules and Regulations section of this **Federal Register**, EPA is approving the State's SIP revision as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial revision and anticipates no adverse comments. The rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no adverse comments are received in response to this proposed rule, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this rule. If EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn, and all public comments received during the 30-day comment period set forth below will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

DATES: Comments on this proposed rule must be received in writing by October 27, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on this action should be addressed to Mr. Thomas Diggs, Chief, Air Planning Section, at the EPA Region 6 Office listed below. Reference Docket Number: File Code SIP 1-3-10; NM-90-05. Copies of the documents relevant to this proposed rule are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the following locations. Anyone wanting to examine these documents should make an appointment with the appropriate office at least two working days in advance.

Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, Air Planning Section (6PD-L), Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division, 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 700, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733.

New Mexico Environment Department, Air Quality Bureau, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Room So. 2100, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eaton R. Weiler, of the EPA Region 6 Air Planning Section at the above address, telephone (214) 665-2174.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: See the information provided in the direct final action of the same title which is published in the Rules and Regulations section of this **Federal Register**.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Carbon monoxide, Hydrocarbons, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Lead, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Particulate matter, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Sulfur oxides, Volatile organic compounds.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q.

Dated: September 8, 1997.

Lynda F. Carroll,

Acting Regional Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-25503 Filed 9-25-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 799

[OPPTS-42187J; FRL-5748-8]

RIN 2070-AC76

Proposed Test Rule for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Extension of Comment Period

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: EPA is extending the public comment period from September 30, 1997 to December 1, 1997, on the proposed rule published in the **Federal Register** of June 26, 1996 (61 FR 33178)(FRL-4869-1) requiring the testing of 21 hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) for certain health effects. This extension is needed to allow the Agency more time to amend the HAPs test rule proposal to reference eleven new Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) test guidelines and make other changes and clarifications to the proposed rule.

DATES: Written comments on the proposed rule must be received by EPA on or before December 1, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Submit three copies of written comments on the proposed HAPs test rule, identified by docket control number (OPPTS-42187A; FRL-4869-1) to: Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT), Document Control

Office (7407), Rm. G-099, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically to oppt.ncic@epamail.epa.gov. Follow the instructions under Unit II. of this document. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan B. Hazen, Director, Environmental Assistance Division (7408), Rm. ET-543B, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone (202) 554-1404; TDD: (202) 554-0551; e-mail: TSCA-Hotline@epamail.epa.gov. For technical information contact: Richard W. Leukroth, Jr., Project Manager, Chemical Control Division (7405), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone: (202) 260-0321; fax: (202) 260-8850; e-mail: leukroth.rich@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Availability: Electronic copies of this document, all **Federal Register** support documents, and the eleven TSCA test guidelines are available from the EPA Home Page at the **Federal Register** - Environmental Documents entry under "Laws and Regulations" (<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr>).

I. Background and General Information

On June 26, 1996 (61 FR 33178), EPA proposed health effects testing, under section 4(a) of TSCA, of the following hazardous air pollutants (HAPs): 1,1'-biphenyl, carbonyl sulfide, chlorine, chlorobenzene, chloroprene, cresols (3 isomers: *ortho*-, *meta*-, *para*-), diethanolamine, ethylbenzene, ethylene dichloride, ethylene glycol, hydrochloric acid, hydrogen fluoride, maleic anhydride, methyl isobutyl ketone, methyl methacrylate, naphthalene, phenol, phthalic anhydride, 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene, 1,1,2-trichloroethane, and vinylidene chloride. EPA would use the data generated under the rule to implement several provisions of section 112 of the Clean Air Act and to meet other EPA data needs and those of other Federal agencies. In the HAPs proposal, EPA invited the submission of proposals for pharmacokinetics (PK) studies for the HAPs chemicals, which could provide the basis for negotiation of enforceable consent agreements (ECAs). These PK studies would be used to conduct route-to-route extrapolation of toxicity data from routes other than inhalation to

predict the effects of inhalation exposure, as an alternative to testing proposed under the HAPs rule.

On October 18, 1996, EPA extended the public comment period on the proposed rule from December 23, 1996, to January 31, 1997 (61 FR 54383) (FRL-5571-3). This extension was for the purpose of allowing more time for the submission of PK proposals and adequate time for comments on the proposed rule to be submitted after the Agency had responded to the proposals. EPA has received eight PK proposals for diethanolamine, ethylene dichloride, ethylene glycol, hydrogen fluoride, maleic anhydride, phthalic anhydride, 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene, and 1,1,2-trichloroethane. In addition, the Agency has received another proposal to develop an ECA for an alternative testing program for methyl isobutyl ketone. EPA has agreed to review the contents of this proposal and to provide comments on its technical merit and relevance to the proposed HAPs testing requirements.

Due to the complexity of the issues raised by the PK proposals and other issues related to test guidelines, EPA successively extended the public comment period (61 FR 67516, December 23, 1996 (FRL-5580-6); 62 FR 9142, February 28, 1997 (FRL-5592-1); 62 FR 14850, March 28, 1997 (FRL-5598-4); 62 FR 29318, May 30, 1997 (FRL-5722-1); 62 FR 37833, July 15, 1997 (FRL-5732-2)) to allow the Agency more time to respond to the PK proposals and to finalize the test guidelines to be referenced in the proposed HAPs test rule. This extension of the comment period is needed to allow the Agency more time to complete work on amending the proposed HAPs test rule.

EPA has completed seven preliminary technical analyses for the PK proposals that were submitted in response to the Agency's solicitation on June 26, 1996. These include HAPs chemicals: hydrogen fluoride, 1,1,2-trichloroethane, ethylene dichloride, maleic anhydride, phthalic anhydride, 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene, and ethylene glycol. Copies of these preliminary technical analyses have been sent to the submitters and placed in the public record for this action (OPPTS-42187B; FRL-4869-1). The Agency intends to provide comments to the submitter of the other PK proposal as soon as possible but in any event prior to the close of the comment period. EPA also recognizes that submitters may need to revise their proposals based on EPA comments. If the Agency decides to proceed with the ECA process, EPA will announce, in the **Federal Register**, one

or more public meetings to discuss the proposals and to negotiate ECAs. In that document, the Agency will solicit persons interested in participating in or monitoring negotiations to develop ECAs based on: the PK testing proposals or revisions thereof, EPA's preliminary technical analyses, and additional comments on EPA's preliminary technical analyses provided by the submitters. The procedures for ECA negotiations are described at 40 CFR 790.22(b).

The Agency emphasizes that the submission of proposals to develop ECAs to conduct alternative testing using PK is no guarantee that EPA and the submitters will, in fact, conclude such agreements. Therefore, EPA urges all submitters of PK proposals to comment on the HAPs proposed rule as an activity separate from the PK proposal/ECA process.

On August 15, 1997, EPA promulgated eleven new TSCA test guidelines (62 FR 43820) (FRL-5719-5), codified at 40 CFR part 799, subpart H. These TSCA part 799 test guidelines were developed based on the OPPTS harmonized guidelines that were developed from the OPPTS guideline harmonization process. In the original HAPs proposal and subsequent notices extending the comment period on the rule, EPA indicated that, for the purposes of this rulemaking and testing under TSCA section 4(a), the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) intends to reference final TSCA test guidelines developed from the OPPTS harmonized guidelines. The eleven TSCA test guidelines are included in the record for this rulemaking.

EPA is amending the proposed HAPs test rule to reference the eleven new TSCA part 799 test guidelines and to seek comment on the guidelines as referenced in enforceable test standards in the forthcoming amended HAPs proposal. In addition, the amendment will provide a revised economic assessment and describe other changes and clarifications to the proposed test rule. This amendment to the proposed HAPs test rule will be published in the **Federal Register** as soon as possible but in any event no later than December 1, 1997.

II. Public Record

The official record for this rulemaking, as well as the public version, has been established for this rulemaking under docket control number (OPPTS-42187A; FRL-4869-1) (including comments and data submitted electronically as described below). A public version of this record, including printed, paper versions of

electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as CBI, is available for inspection from 12 noon to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The official rulemaking record is located in the TSCA Nonconfidential Information Center, Rm NE-B607, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at oppt.ncic@epamail.epa.gov

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comments and data will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect in 5.1 file format or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number (OPPTS-42187A; FRL-4869-1). Electronic comments on the proposed rule may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 799

Environmental protection, Chemicals, Hazardous substances, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: September 22, 1997.

Charles M. Auer,

Chemical Control Division, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics.

Accordingly, EPA is extending the comment period on the proposed rule to December 1, 1997.

[FR Doc. 97-25657 Filed 9-25-97; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

41 CFR Parts 51-2, 51-4, and 51-6

Miscellaneous Amendments to Committee Regulations

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Committee is proposing to make changes to five sections of its regulations to clarify them and improve the efficiency of operation of the Committee's Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program. The changes are necessary to clarify and expand earlier regulation changes and to eliminate unnecessary regulatory language.

DATES: Submit comments on or before November 25, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely