

(f) The system must be labeled to show its identification, function, and operating limitations.

(g) A warning placard must be located on the fuselage near the rocket motor warning of the rocket.

(h) The FAA-approved flight manual must include a thorough explanation of operation and limitations as well as the safe deployment envelope.

(i) It must be shown that the occupants will be protected from serious injury after touchdown under various adverse weather conditions, including high winds.

#### 5. System Protection

(a) All components of the system must provide protection against deterioration due to weathering, corrosion, and abrasion.

(b) Adequate provisions must be made for ventilation and drainage of the parachute canister and associated structure to ensure the sound condition of the system.

#### 6. System Inspection Provisions

(a) Instructions for continued airworthiness must be prepared for the system that meet the requirements of § 23.1529.

(b) Adequate means must be provided to permit the close examination of the parachute and other system components to ensure proper functioning, alignment, lubrication, and adjustment during the required inspection of the system.

#### 7. Operating Limitations

(a) Operating limitations must be prescribed to ensure proper operation of the system within its deployment envelope. A detailed discussion of the system, including operation, limitations and deployment envelope must be included in the Airplane Flight Manual.

(b) The deployment envelope of the GARD system must be the same as the normal operating envelope of the airplane.

(c) Operating limitations must be prescribed for inspecting, repacking, and replacing the parachute and deployment mechanism at approved intervals.

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri on January 21, 1997.

Henry A. Armstrong,

*Acting Manager, Small Airplane Directorate,  
Aircraft Certification Service.*

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BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Mine Safety and Health Administration

#### 30 CFR Parts 56, 57, 62, 70, and 71

RIN 1219-AA53

#### Health Standards for Occupational Noise Exposure

**AGENCY:** Mine Safety and Health Administration, (MSHA) Labor.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; extension of comment period and notice of hearings.

**SUMMARY:** MSHA is extending the period for public comment regarding the Agency's proposed rule for occupational noise exposure, which was published in the Federal Register on December 17, 1996. The Agency also is announcing that it intends to hold public hearings. These hearings will be held under section 101 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977. The rulemaking record will remain open until June 16, 1997.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before April 21, 1997. All requests to make oral presentations for the record should be submitted at least 5 days prior to each hearing date. However, you do not have to give a written request to be provided an opportunity to speak. The public hearings are scheduled to be held at the following locations on the dates indicated:

May 6, 1997—Beaver, West Virginia (Beckley)

May 8, 1997—St. Louis, Missouri

May 13, 1997—Denver, Colorado

May 15, 1997—Las Vegas, Nevada

May 20, 1997—Atlanta, Georgia

May 22, 1997—Washington, DC

Each hearing will last from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., but will continue into the evening if necessary.

The record will remain open after the hearings until June 16, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on the proposed rule may be transmitted by electronic mail, fax, or mail. Comments by electronic mail must be clearly identified as such and sent to this e-mail address: noise@msha.gov. Comments by fax must be clearly identified as such and sent to: MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 703-235-5551. Send mail comments to: MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, Room 631, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203-1984, or any MSHA district or field office. The Agency will have copies of the proposal available for review by the mining public at each district and field office location, and each technical support center. The document will also be

available for loan to interested members of the public on an as needed basis. MSHA will also accept written comments from the mining public in the field and district offices and technical support centers. These comments will be a part of the official rulemaking record. Interested persons are encouraged to supplement written comments with computer files or disks; please contact the Agency with any questions about format.

Send requests to make oral presentations to: MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, Room 631, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203-1984.

The hearings will be held at the following locations:

May 6, 1997, National Mine Health & Safety Academy, Auditorium, 1301 Airport Road, Beaver, West Virginia (Beckley) 25813.

May 8, 1997, Harley Hotel, North Ballroom, 3400 Rider Trail South, St. Louis, Missouri 63134.

May 13, 1997, Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Mount Evans Room, 3535 Quebec Street, Denver, Colorado 80207.

May 15, 1997, Quality Inn, 377 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109.

May 20, 1997, Holiday Inn Airport, 5010 Old National Highway, Atlanta, Georgia 30349.

May 22, 1997, Department of Labor, Frances Perkins Building, Auditorium, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Patricia W. Silvey, Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, MSHA, phone 703-235-1910.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On December 17, 1996, MSHA published in the Federal Register (61 FR 66348) a proposed rule to revise the Agency's existing health standards for occupational noise, allowing 60 days for public comment. The Agency has received a number of requests from the mining community to extend the period for comment. These requests include a range of from 15 to 180 additional days. The comment period was scheduled to close on February 18, 1997. MSHA does not believe that an extension of 180 days (until August 17, 1997) is warranted. The Agency believes that a more reasoned response is an extension until April 21, 1997, an additional 60 days beyond the original comment period. The Agency believes that this extension will provide sufficient time for all interested parties to review and comment on the proposal, and does not

anticipate that any further extensions are necessary or appropriate.

In addition to this action extending the comment period, MSHA will hold public hearings to receive comments. The hearings will address any issues relevant to the rulemaking such as the requirements for dose determination, threshold level, exchange rate, action level, permissible exposure level, administrative/engineering controls, dual hearing protection level, ceiling level, operator exposure monitoring, employee notification, hearing protectors, training, audiometric testing, follow-up evaluation, follow-up corrective measures, notification of results, reporting requirements, access to records, and transfer of records.

The hearings will be conducted in an informal manner by a panel of MSHA officials. Although formal rules of evidence or cross examination will not apply, the presiding official may exercise discretion to ensure the orderly progress of the hearings and may exclude irrelevant or unduly repetitious material and questions.

Each session will begin with an opening statement from MSHA, followed by an opportunity for members of the public to make oral presentations. The hearing panel may ask questions of speakers. At the discretion of the presiding official, the time allocated to speakers for their presentations may be limited. In the interest of conducting productive hearings, MSHA will schedule speakers in a manner that allows all points of view to be heard as effectively as possible.

Verbatim transcripts of the proceedings will be prepared and made a part of the rulemaking record. Copies of the hearing transcripts will be made available for public review.

MSHA will accept additional written comments and other appropriate data for the record from any interested party, including those not presenting oral statements. Written comments and data submitted to MSHA will be included in the rulemaking record. To allow for the submission of posthearing comments, the record will remain open until June 16, 1997. This provides a total of 6 months from publication for the public to comment on this proposed rule.

Dated: January 31, 1997.

J. Davitt McAteer,  
*Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health.*

[FR Doc. 97-3001 Filed 2-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-43-P

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### 40 CFR Parts 52 and 81

[LA-38-1-7322; FRL-5683-5]

#### Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; State of Louisiana; Approval of the Maintenance Plan for Calcasieu Parish; Redesignation of Calcasieu Parish to Attainment for Ozone

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** This document announces the Regional Administrator's decision to propose approval of a request from the State of Louisiana to redesignate Calcasieu Parish to attainment for ozone. On December 20, 1995, the State of Louisiana submitted a maintenance plan and request to redesignate the Calcasieu Parish marginal ozone nonattainment area to attainment. Under the Clean Air Act (the Act), nonattainment areas may be redesignated to attainment if sufficient data are available to warrant the redesignation and the area meets the other Act redesignation requirements. In this action, EPA is proposing approval of Louisiana's redesignation request and maintenance plan because they meet requirements set forth in the Act. The EPA is also proposing approval of the 1993 base year emissions inventory for Calcasieu Parish. If approved, the maintenance plan and emissions inventory will become a federally enforceable part of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for Louisiana.

**DATES:** Comments on this proposed rule must be postmarked by March 10, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be mailed to Thomas H. Diggs, Chief, Air Planning Section (6PD-L), EPA Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733. Copies of the State's submittal and other information relevant to this action are available for inspection during normal hours at the following locations:

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

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Air Quality, 7290 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810.

Anyone wishing to review this proposal at the Region 6 EPA office is

asked to contact the person below to schedule an appointment 24 hours in advance.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lt. Mick Cote, Air Planning Section (6PD-L), EPA Region 6, telephone (214) 665-7219.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

The Clean Air Act, as amended in 1977, required areas that were designated nonattainment based on a failure to meet the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to develop SIPs with sufficient control measures to expeditiously attain and maintain the standard. Calcasieu Parish was designated under section 107 of the 1977 Clean Air Act as nonattainment with respect to the ozone NAAQS on September 11, 1978. For purposes of redesignations, the State of Louisiana has an approved ozone SIP for Calcasieu Parish.

The LDEQ has collected ambient monitoring data since 1992 that show no violations of the ozone NAAQS of 0.12 parts per million. The LDEQ has developed a maintenance plan for Calcasieu Parish, and solicited public comment. Subsequently, LDEQ submitted a request, through the Governor's office, to redesignate this parish to attainment with respect to the ozone NAAQS. This maintenance plan and redesignation request for Calcasieu Parish was submitted to EPA on December 20, 1995.

##### II. Analysis of State Submittal

###### A. Evaluation Criteria

The Act revised section 107(d)(3)(E) to provide five specific requirements that an area must meet in order to be redesignated from nonattainment to attainment: (1) The area must have attained the applicable NAAQS; (2) the area must meet all applicable requirements under section 110 and part D of the Act; (3) the area must have a fully approved SIP under section 110(k) of the Act; (4) the air quality improvement must be permanent and enforceable; and, (5) the area must have a fully approved maintenance plan pursuant to section 175A of the Act. Section 107(d)(3)(D) of the Act allows a Governor to initiate the redesignation process for an area to apply for attainment status.

###### (1) Attainment of the NAAQS for Ozone

Attainment of the ozone NAAQS is determined based on the expected number of exceedances in a calendar year. The method for determining