

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[9931-93-OE]

Cross-Media Electronic Reporting: Authorized Program Revision Approval, State of North Carolina**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces EPA's approval of the State of North Carolina's request to revise its EPA Administered Permit Programs: The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and General Pretreatment Regulations for Existing and New Sources of Pollution EPA-authorized program to allow electronic reporting.

DATES: EPA's approval is effective March 10, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen Seeh, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Information, Mail Stop 2823T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20460, (202) 566-1175, seeh.karen@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 13, 2005, the final Cross-Media Electronic Reporting Rule (CROMERR) was published in the **Federal Register** (70 FR 59848) and codified as part 3 of title 40 of the CFR. CROMERR establishes electronic reporting as an acceptable regulatory alternative to paper reporting and establishes requirements to assure that electronic documents are as legally dependable as their paper counterparts. Subpart D of CROMERR requires that state, tribal or local government agencies that receive, or wish to begin receiving, electronic reports under their EPA-authorized programs must apply to EPA for a revision or modification of those programs and obtain EPA approval. Subpart D provides standards for such approvals based on consideration of the electronic document receiving systems that the state, tribe, or local government will use to implement the electronic reporting. Additionally, § 3.1000(b) through (e) of 40 CFR part 3, subpart D provides special procedures for program revisions and modifications to allow electronic reporting, to be used at the option of the state, tribe or local government in place of procedures available under existing program-specific authorization regulations. An application submitted under the subpart D procedures must show that the state, tribe or local government has sufficient legal authority to implement the electronic reporting components of the

programs covered by the application and will use electronic document receiving systems that meet the applicable subpart D requirements.

On November 3rd 2016, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NC DENR) submitted an application titled Electronic Discharge Monitoring Report System for revision/modification to its EPA-approved program under title 40 CFR to allow new electronic reporting. EPA reviewed NC DENR's request to revise its EPA-authorized Part 123—EPA Administered Permit Programs: The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and General Pretreatment Regulations for Existing and New Sources of Pollution program and, based on this review, EPA determined that the application met the standards for approval of authorized program revision/modification set out in 40 CFR part 3, subpart D. In accordance with 40 CFR 3.1000(d), this notice of EPA's decision to approve North Carolina's request to revise its Part 123—EPA Administered Permit Programs: The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and General Pretreatment Regulations for Existing and New Sources of Pollution program to allow electronic reporting under 40 CFR part 122 is being published in the **Federal Register**.

NC DENR was notified of EPA's determination to approve its application with respect to the authorized program listed above.

Matthew Leopard,

Director, Office of Information Management.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-R04-OAR-2016-0782; FRL-9959-75-Region 4]

Adequacy Status of the Knoxville, TN 1997 Annual PM_{2.5} Maintenance Plan Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets for Transportation Conformity Purposes**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.**ACTION:** Notice of adequacy.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is notifying the public that it has found that the motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEBs) contained in the State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision pertaining to the Knoxville, Tennessee 1997 Annual fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) nonattainment area are adequate for transportation

conformity purposes. This SIP revision was submitted on December 20, 2016, by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and requests that EPA redesignate the area to attainment for the 1997 annual PM_{2.5} national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS), and that EPA approve a maintenance plan for the continued attainment of the Area. The Knoxville 1997 Annual PM_{2.5} nonattainment area (hereafter referred to as "the Knoxville Area"), for which MVEBs are established in this notice, is comprised of the entire counties of Anderson, Blount, Knox, and Loudon, as well as a portion of Roane County. On March 2, 1999, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit (D.C. Circuit) ruled that submitted SIPs cannot be used for transportation conformity determinations until EPA has affirmatively found that the MVEBs are adequate. As a result of EPA's finding, the Knoxville Area must use the MVEBs for future conformity determinations for the 1997 Annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS.

DATES: These MVEBs are effective March 27, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kelly Sheckler, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Air Regulatory Management Section, 61 Forsyth Street SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Ms. Sheckler can also be reached by telephone at (404) 562-9222, or via electronic mail at sheckler.kelly@epa.gov. The finding is available at EPA's conformity Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/transconf/currsips.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is simply an announcement of a finding that EPA has already made. EPA, Region 4, sent a letter to TDEC on February 15, 2017, stating that the MVEBs identified for Knoxville in Tennessee's maintenance SIP revision, submitted on December 20, 2016, are adequate and must be used for transportation conformity determinations in the Knoxville Area.

EPA posted the availability of the Knoxville Area MVEBs on EPA's Web site on December 22, 2016, as part of the adequacy process, for the purpose of soliciting comments. The adequacy comment period ran until January 23, 2017. During EPA's adequacy comment period, no comments were received on the Knoxville Area MVEBs. Through this notice, EPA is informing the public that these MVEBs are adequate for transportation conformity. This finding has also been announced on EPA's conformity Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/>