

with the CAA and applicable regulations.

### III. Incorporation by Reference

In this document, EPA is proposing to include in a final EPA rule regulatory text that includes incorporation by reference. In accordance with requirements of 1 CFR 51.5, EPA is proposing to incorporate by reference MCAPCO Rules 1.5102—*Definition of Terms* and 1.5111—*General Recordkeeping, Reporting and Monitoring Requirements*, both which have an effective date of December 18, 2018; as well as Rule 1.5104—*General Duties and Powers of the Director, With the Approval of the Board*, with an effective date of December 15, 2015, into the Mecklenburg County portion of the North Carolina SIP. EPA has made, and will continue to make, these materials generally available through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and at the EPA Region 4 office (please contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this preamble for more information).

### IV. Proposed Action

EPA is proposing to approve and incorporate into the Mecklenburg County LIP revisions to MCAPCO Rules 1.5102—*Definition of Terms* and 1.5111—*General Recordkeeping, Reporting and Monitoring Requirements*, effective on December 18, 2018, as well as Rule 1.5104—*General Duties and Powers of the Director, With the Approval of the Board*, effective on December 15, 2015. EPA is proposing to approve these changes because they are consistent with the CAA.

### V. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

Under the CAA, the Administrator is required to approve a SIP submission that complies with the provisions of the Act and applicable Federal regulations. See 42 U.S.C. 7410(k); 40 CFR 52.02(a). Thus, in reviewing SIP submissions, EPA's role is to approve state choices, provided they meet the criteria of the CAA. This proposed action merely proposes to approve state law as meeting Federal requirements and does not impose additional requirements beyond those imposed by state law. For that reason, this proposed action:

- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Orders 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993) and 1356–3 (76 FR 3821, January 21, 2011);
- Does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions

of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*);

- Is certified as not having a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*);
- 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);
- Does not have Federalism implications as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999);
- Is not an economically significant regulatory action based on health or safety risks subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997);
- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to Executive Order 13211 (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001);
- Is not subject to requirements of section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) because application of those requirements would be inconsistent with the CAA; and
- Does not provide EPA with the discretionary authority to address, as appropriate, disproportionate human health or environmental effects, using practicable and legally permissible methods, under Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994).

The SIP is not approved to apply on any Indian reservation land or in any other area where EPA or an Indian tribe has demonstrated that a tribe has jurisdiction. In those areas of Indian country, the rule does not have tribal implications as specified by Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000), nor will it impose substantial direct costs on tribal governments or preempt tribal law.

### List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Reporting, and recordkeeping requirements.

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Dated: November 8, 2021.

**John Blevins,**

*Acting Regional Administrator, Region 4.*  
[FR Doc. 2021–24901 Filed 11–16–21; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### 40 CFR Parts 52 and 81

[EPA–R05–OAR–2021–0540; FRL–9201–01–R5]

### Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Redesignation of the Rhinelander Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to redesignate the Rhinelander nonattainment area, which consists of a portion of Oneida County (Crescent Township, Newbold Township, Pine Lake Township, Pelican Township, and the City of Rhinelander), to attainment for the 2010 primary, health-based 1-hour sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). EPA is also proposing to approve Wisconsin's maintenance plan for the Rhinelander SO<sub>2</sub> nonattainment area. Wisconsin submitted the request for approval of the Rhinelander area's redesignation and maintenance plan on July 28, 2021. EPA proposed to approve Wisconsin's attainment plan for the Rhinelander area on July 22, 2021, and EPA will not finalize this action until the attainment plan is approved.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before December 17, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–R05–OAR–2021–0540 at <http://www.regulations.gov>, or via email to [arra.sarah@epa.gov](mailto:arra.sarah@epa.gov). For comments submitted at [Regulations.gov](http://Regulations.gov), follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from [Regulations.gov](http://Regulations.gov). For either manner of submission, EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, *etc.*) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.*, on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, please contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. For the

full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <http://www2.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Abigail Teener, Environmental Engineer, Attainment Planning and Maintenance Section, Air Programs Branch (AR-18J), Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, (312) 353-7314, [teener.abigail@epa.gov](mailto:teener.abigail@epa.gov). The EPA Region 5 office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays and facility closures due to COVID-19.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This supplementary information section is arranged as follows:

- I. Background and Redesignation Requirements
- II. Determination of Attainment
- III. Wisconsin’s State Implementation Plan (SIP)
- IV. Permanent and Enforceable Emission Reductions
- V. Maintenance Plan
- VI. Requirements for the Area Under Section 110 and Part D
- VII. What action is EPA taking?
- VIII. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

**I. Background and Redesignation Requirements**

In 2010, EPA established a revised primary, health-based 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS of 75 parts per billion (ppb) (75 FR 35520, June 22, 2010). On August 5, 2013, EPA designated the Rhinelander area as nonattainment for the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS based on air quality monitoring data for calendar years 2009–2011 (78 FR 47191). The Rhinelander area is comprised of Crescent Township, Newbold Township, Pine Lake Township, Pelican Township, and the City of Rhinelander in Oneida County. Wisconsin submitted an attainment plan for the Rhinelander area on January 22, 2016, and supplemented it on July 18, 2016, and November 29, 2016. On March 23, 2021, EPA partially approved

and partially disapproved Wisconsin’s Rhinelander SO<sub>2</sub> plan, as submitted and supplemented in 2016, for failure to comply with EPA’s stack height regulations (86 FR 15418).<sup>1</sup> On March 29, 2021, Wisconsin submitted a permit containing a more stringent emission limit for Ahlstrom-Munksjö’s Rhinelander facility (Ahlstrom-Munksjö) (formerly Expera Specialty Solutions LLC (Expera)), the main SO<sub>2</sub> source in the area, and supplemental information in order to remedy the plan’s deficiencies specified in EPA’s March 23, 2021, rulemaking. The plan includes modeling to show that compliance with emission limits results in attainment of the standard and ongoing maintenance. EPA proposed to approve Wisconsin’s revised plan for bringing the Rhinelander area into attainment on July 22, 2021 (86 FR 38643), and EPA will not finalize this action until the attainment plan is approved and effective. On July 28, 2021, Wisconsin submitted a request to redesignate the Rhinelander area to attainment.

Under Clean Air Act (CAA) section 107(d)(3)(E), there are five criteria which must be met before a nonattainment area may be redesignated to attainment:

1. EPA has determined that the relevant NAAQS has been attained in the area.
2. The applicable implementation plan has been fully approved by EPA under section 110(k).
3. EPA has determined that improvement in air quality is due to permanent and enforceable reductions in emissions resulting from the SIP, Federal regulations, and other permanent and enforceable reductions.
4. EPA has fully approved a maintenance plan, including a contingency plan, for the area under section 175A of the CAA.
5. The State has met all applicable requirements for the area under section 110 and part D.

**II. Determination of Attainment**

The first requirement for redesignation is to demonstrate that the NAAQS has been attained in the area. As stated in EPA’s April 2014 “Guidance for 1-Hour SO<sub>2</sub> Nonattainment Area SIP Submissions,” there are two components needed to support an attainment determination: A review of representative air quality monitoring data and a further analysis, generally requiring air quality modeling, to demonstrate that the entire area is attaining the applicable NAAQS, based on current actual emissions or the fully implemented control strategy. Wisconsin has addressed both components.

Under EPA regulations at 40 CFR 50.17, the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS is met at an ambient air quality monitoring site when the three-year average of the annual 99th percentile of one-hour daily maximum concentrations is less than or equal to 75 ppb, as determined in accordance with appendix T of 40 CFR part 50 at all relevant monitoring sites in the subject area. Wisconsin operates one SO<sub>2</sub> monitoring site in the Rhinelander area: Rhinelander Tower monitor (AQS ID 55-085-0996). The Rhinelander Tower monitor site is located at 434 High Street under the Rhinelander municipal water tower. EPA has reviewed the ambient air monitoring data from the Rhinelander Tower monitor, focusing on air quality data collected from 2012 through 2020. For each of these calendar years, the data are quality-assured, certified, and recorded in EPA’s Air Quality System database.<sup>2</sup>

Tables 1 and 2 of this document show the 99th percentile results and three-year average design values, respectively, for the Rhinelander Tower monitor for 2012–2020. The Rhinelander Tower monitor design values are 69 ppb for 2016–2018, 36 ppb for 2017–2019, and 36 ppb for 2018–2020, which are all below the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. Therefore, EPA finds that Wisconsin has demonstrated that Rhinelander’s SO<sub>2</sub> monitor shows attainment.

**TABLE 1—WISCONSIN’S MONITORING DATA FOR THE RHINELANDER SO<sub>2</sub> NONATTAINMENT AREA FOR 2012–2020—99TH PERCENTILE VALUES**  
[ppb]

Site ID	Location	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
55-085-0996 .....	Rhinelander Tower Monitor.	174	153	162	156	129	38	40	29	39

<sup>1</sup> For more discussion on stack height, see EPA’s November 25, 2020, proposed partial approval and partial disapproval (85 FR 75273).

<sup>2</sup> The 2020 quarter 4 data did not meet the completeness criterion due to some invalidated data. However, when data from all 4 quarters of

2020 were evaluated together, the completeness criterion was met for the 2020 calendar year.

TABLE 2—WISCONSIN’S MONITORING DATA FOR THE RHINELANDER SO<sub>2</sub> NONATTAINMENT AREA FOR 2012–2019—  
DESIGN VALUES  
[ppb]

Site ID	Location	2012–2014	2013–2015	2014–2016	2015–2017	2016–2018	2017–2019	2018–2020
55–085–0996 .....	Rhineland Tower Monitor .....	163	157	149	108	69	36	36

In addition to ambient air quality monitoring data, Wisconsin utilized an approach based on computer modeling, which relied on allowable emissions in Wisconsin’s attainment plan to additionally characterize the attainment status of the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS and to provide for maintaining SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Rhineland area below the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS through 2032. EPA proposed to approve this modeling on July 22, 2021, as part of Wisconsin’s attainment plan, and EPA will not finalize this action until Wisconsin’s attainment plan is approved and effective.

Regarding the requirement for Wisconsin to demonstrate that the entire area is attaining the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS, Wisconsin also referred to the dispersion modeling analysis which was submitted as part of its attainment plan for Rhineland. This analysis demonstrated that revised SO<sub>2</sub> emission limits for Ahlstrom-Munksjö would provide for attainment, as Ahlstrom-Munksjö accounts for over 94 percent of the modeled SO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the Rhineland area. Wisconsin has confirmed that Ahlstrom-Munksjö and the other facilities included in the modeling analysis are currently in full compliance with their emission limits. Beginning December 31, 2021, Ahlstrom-Munksjö will be subject to a more stringent emission limit, which will ensure that actual emissions are at or below the levels Wisconsin used in its modeling analysis. The modeling analysis was discussed in detail in the July 22, 2021, notice of proposed rulemaking for the Rhineland SO<sub>2</sub> attainment plan (86 FR 38643). In this action, EPA proposes to find that this modeling analysis and the monitored air quality data demonstrate that the Rhineland area has attained the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS.

**III. Wisconsin’s State Implementation Plan (SIP)**

EPA’s proposed approval of Wisconsin’s attainment SIP for the Rhineland area (86 FR 38643) included revised emission limits for Ahlstrom-Munksjö, which is the main SO<sub>2</sub> source in the Rhineland area. In that action, EPA proposed to find that Wisconsin had satisfied requirements

for providing for attainment of the 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS in the Rhineland area. The proposed SO<sub>2</sub> SIP regulations for Ahlstrom-Munksjö are contained in Air Pollution Control Construction Permit Revision 15–DMM–128–R1.<sup>3</sup> EPA will not finalize this action until the approval of Wisconsin’s SIP for the Rhineland area is finalized. Wisconsin has shown that it maintains an active enforcement program to ensure ongoing compliance with these requirements.<sup>4</sup> Wisconsin’s new source review/prevention of significant deterioration program will address emissions from potential new sources in the area (79 FR 60064, October 6, 2014).

**IV. Permanent and Enforceable Emission Reductions**

For an area to be redesignated, the State must be able to reasonably attribute the improvement in air quality to emission reductions that are permanent and enforceable. Wisconsin’s 2016 attainment plan established SO<sub>2</sub> emission limits for Ahlstrom-Munksjö boiler B26 through Administrative Order AM–15–01. In 2018, these emission limits, in combination with the retirement of four coal boilers and reduced coal sulfur content at Ahlstrom-Munksjö, resulted in an actual average decrease of 2.07 tons per day (tpd) of SO<sub>2</sub> (25 percent) from 2011 actual emissions. As part of its 2021 revised attainment plan, Wisconsin submitted a more stringent SO<sub>2</sub> limit for Ahlstrom-Munksjö. This limit and the associated

requirements are contained in a title I construction permit revision (Air Pollution Control Construction Permit Revision 15–DMM–128–R1), which will render them federally enforceable after the permit compliance date of December 31, 2021. EPA included the revised limits in the proposed approval of Wisconsin’s SIP on July 22, 2021 (86 FR 38643). A redesignation to attainment of the Rhineland area would not be effective before December 31, 2021, when the permit is enforceable.

As shown in Table 2 of this document, the monitored design values in the Rhineland area at the time of its nonattainment designation were above the NAAQS of 75 ppb. Subsequent monitoring data in the Rhineland area indicate that the 99th percentile ambient SO<sub>2</sub> levels dropped below the NAAQS after the imposition of enforceable limits at Ahlstrom-Munksjö. EPA proposes to find that the improvement in air quality in the Rhineland area can be attributed to permanent and enforceable emission reductions at Ahlstrom-Munksjö.

**V. Maintenance Plan**

CAA section 175A sets forth the elements of a maintenance plan for areas seeking redesignation from nonattainment to attainment. Under section 175A, the plan must demonstrate continued attainment of the applicable NAAQS for at least ten years after the nonattainment area is redesignated to attainment. Eight years after the redesignation, the State must submit a revised maintenance plan demonstrating that attainment will continue to be maintained for the ten years following the initial ten-year period. To address the possibility of future NAAQS violations, the maintenance plan must contain contingency measures as EPA deems necessary to ensure prompt correction of any future one-hour violations.

Specifically, the maintenance plan should address five requirements: The attainment emissions inventory, maintenance demonstration, monitoring, verification of continued attainment, and a contingency plan. Wisconsin’s July 28, 2021, redesignation request contains its maintenance plan,

<sup>3</sup> The portions of Air Pollution Control Construction Permit Revision 15–DMM–128–R1 that EPA proposed to incorporate into the Wisconsin SIP include the permit cover sheet, emissions limitations for Ahlstrom-Munksjö (Conditions A.3.a.(1)–(3)), compliance demonstration (Conditions A.3.b.(1)–(3)), reference test methods, recordkeeping and monitoring requirements (Conditions A.3.c.(1)–(5) and A.3.c.(7)–(9)), and the effective date (Condition YYY.1.a.(1)).

<sup>4</sup> Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) maintains an enforcement program to ensure compliance with SIP requirements. The Bureau of Air Management houses an active statewide compliance and enforcement team that works in all geographic regions of the State. WDNR refers actions as necessary to the Wisconsin Department of Justice with the involvement of WDNR. *Wis. Stats.* 285.83 and *Wis. Stats.* 285.87 provide WDNR with the authority to enforce violations and assess penalties, to ensure that required measures are ultimately implemented.

which Wisconsin has committed to review eight years after redesignation.

In its redesignation request, Wisconsin provided an emission inventory which addresses the 2011 base year actual emissions of 2,440 tons per year (tpy) for the Rhinelander area. Wisconsin chose 2018 as an attainment year in order to demonstrate actual emissions reductions that have occurred in an attaining year. Total actual SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Rhinelander area for the attainment year were 1,289 tpy. As Ahlstrom-Munksjö boiler B26 was not operational for part of 2018, Wisconsin also included average daily emission values of 8.23 tpd in 2011 and 6.15 tpd in 2018. Wisconsin demonstrated a 25 percent reduction in actual average daily emissions, which is more than sufficient to attain the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS in the Rhinelander area. Wisconsin's projected Rhinelander area emissions for the maintenance year of 2032 are 2,204 tpy, over 99 percent of which are projected from Ahlstrom-Munksjö. This quantity is 10 percent lower than actual emissions in 2011. The projected emissions for 2032 are lower than the SO<sub>2</sub> potential-to-emit for Ahlstrom-Munksjö of 2,710 tpy, based on the revised limits in Air Pollution Control Construction Permit Revision 15–DMM–128–R1. The modeling analysis shows that the area will continue to attain based on the potential-to-emit in the revised permit and associated control requirements.

Wisconsin's maintenance demonstration consists of the nonattainment SIP air quality analysis showing that the emission reductions now in effect in the Rhinelander area will provide for attainment of the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. The permanent and enforceable SO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions described above ensure that area emissions will be equal to or less than the emission levels that were evaluated in the air quality analysis, and Wisconsin's enforceable emission requirements will ensure that the Rhinelander area SO<sub>2</sub> emission limits are met continuously.

For continuing verification, Wisconsin has committed to track the emissions and compliance status of the major facilities in the Rhinelander area so that future emissions will not exceed the allowable emissions-based attainment inventory. All major sources in Wisconsin are required to submit annual emissions data, which the State uses to update its emission inventories as required by the CAA.

The requirement to submit contingency measures in accordance with section 172(c)(9) of the CAA can be adequately addressed for SO<sub>2</sub> by the

operation of a comprehensive enforcement program, which can quickly identify and address sources that might be causing exceedances of the NAAQS. Wisconsin's enforcement program is active and capable of prompt action to remedy compliance issues. Wisconsin commits to study SO<sub>2</sub> emission trends and identify areas of concern and potential additional measures and, if necessary, Wisconsin will consider additional control measures that can be implemented quickly. Wisconsin has the authority to expeditiously adopt, implement, and enforce any subsequent emissions control measures deemed necessary to correct any future SO<sub>2</sub> violations. Wisconsin commits to adopting and implementing such corrective actions as necessary to address violations of the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. The public will have the opportunity to participate in the contingency measure implementation process. Based on the foregoing, EPA proposes to find that Wisconsin has addressed the contingency measure requirement. Further, EPA proposes to find that Wisconsin's maintenance plan adequately addresses the five basic components necessary to maintain the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS in the Rhinelander nonattainment area.

#### **VI. Requirements for the Area Under Section 110 and Part D**

Wisconsin has submitted information demonstrating that it meets all of the SIP requirements of the CAA for the Rhinelander nonattainment area. EPA approved most elements of Wisconsin's infrastructure SIP on September 11, 2015 (80 FR 54725), revisions to Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Nonattainment New Source Review programs on October 6, 2014 (79 FR 60064), state board requirements on January 21, 2016 (81 FR 3334), and the remaining components on February 7, 2017 (82 FR 9515). These infrastructure SIP approvals confirm that Wisconsin's SIP meets the applicable requirements of CAA section 110(a)(1) and 110(a)(2) to contain the basic program elements, such as an active enforcement program and permitting program.

Section 110(a)(2)(D) requires that SIPs contain certain measures to prevent sources in a State from significantly contributing to air quality problems in another State. To implement this provision, EPA has required certain States to establish programs to address the interstate transport of air pollutants. The section 110(a)(2)(D) requirements for a State are not linked with a nonattainment area's designation and classification in that State. EPA believes that the requirements linked with a

nonattainment area's designation and classifications are the relevant measures to evaluate in reviewing a redesignation request. The transport SIP submittal requirements, where applicable, continue to apply to a State regardless of the designation of any one area in the State. Thus, EPA does not believe that the CAA's interstate transport requirements should be construed to be applicable requirements for purposes of redesignation.

In addition, EPA believes that other section 110 elements that are neither connected with nonattainment plan submissions nor linked with an area's SO<sub>2</sub> attainment status are not applicable requirements for purposes of redesignation. The area will still be subject to these requirements after the area is redesignated to attainment of the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. The section 110 and part D requirements that are linked with a particular area's designation and classification are the relevant measures to evaluate in reviewing a redesignation request. This approach is consistent with EPA's existing policy on applicability (*i.e.*, for redesignations) of conformity and oxygenated fuels requirements.<sup>5</sup>

Section 191 of the CAA requires Wisconsin to submit a part D SIP for the Rhinelander nonattainment area by April 6, 2015. Wisconsin submitted its part D SIP on January 22, 2016 and supplemented it on July 18, 2016 and November 29, 2016. However, on March 23, 2021, EPA partially disapproved Wisconsin's part D SIP, as submitted and supplemented in 2016, for failure to comply with EPA's stack height regulations. Consequently, Wisconsin submitted a revised plan to EPA on March 29, 2021. The revised SIP included a demonstration of attainment and a more stringent SO<sub>2</sub> emission limit for Ahlstrom-Munksjö. EPA proposed to approve the revised Rhinelander attainment plan on July 22, 2021 (86 FR 38643), and EPA will not finalize this action until the attainment plan is approved and effective. In the July 22, 2021, rulemaking, EPA proposed to conclude that Wisconsin had satisfied the various requirements under CAA section 110 and part D for the Rhinelander SO<sub>2</sub> nonattainment area. EPA concluded that Wisconsin satisfied requirements for reasonably available

<sup>5</sup> See Reading, Pennsylvania proposed and final rulemakings, 61 FR 53174–53176 (October 10, 1996) and 62 FR 24826 (May 7, 1997); Cleveland-Akron-Loraine, Ohio final rulemaking, 61 FR 20458 (May 7, 1996); and Tampa, Florida final rule, 60 FR 62748 (December 7, 1995). See also the discussion of this issue in the Cincinnati, Ohio ozone redesignation (65 FR 37890, June 19, 2000), and the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania ozone redesignation (66 FR 50399, October 19, 2001).

control measures (required under section 173(c)(1)) and reasonable further progress (required under section 173(c)(2)). That rulemaking supplemented a previous action in which EPA concluded that Wisconsin satisfied requirements for an attainment inventory of the SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from sources in the nonattainment area (required under section 173(c)(3)).

Wisconsin chose 2011 for its base year emissions inventory, as comprehensive emissions data were available and updated that year, which satisfies the 172(c)(3) requirements. In that year,

Ahlstrom-Munksjö was the main source in the nonattainment area.

Table 3 of this document compares Wisconsin's SO<sub>2</sub> emissions data for Ahlstrom-Munksjö for 2011 (the base nonattainment year identified by Wisconsin), 2018 (the attainment year identified by Wisconsin), and 2032 (the maintenance year identified by Wisconsin). For each of these years, Wisconsin's submittal shows that Ahlstrom-Munksjö accounts for over 99 percent of the SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Rhinelander area.

By providing actual emissions from Ahlstrom-Munksjö, the main SO<sub>2</sub> source, from a time period when the

area was not meeting the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS, and from a time period when the area was attaining the NAAQS, Wisconsin demonstrates a 25 percent reduction in actual average daily SO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Wisconsin's submittal shows that actual average daily 2018 Ahlstrom-Munksjö SO<sub>2</sub> emissions were 75 percent of the actual emissions in 2011. Wisconsin also shows by modeling that Ahlstrom-Munksjö's compliance with its revised SO<sub>2</sub> emission limit, which will be federally enforceable beginning December 31, 2021, will result in the area maintaining attainment of the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS.

TABLE 3—ACTUAL AND PROJECTED AHLSTROM-MUNKSJÖ EMISSIONS

Affected source	Type of reduction	2011 Nonattainment year (actual)		2018 Attainment year (actual)		2011–2018 Change (actual)		2032 Maintenance year (projected)	
		(tpy)	(tpd)	(tpy)	(tpd)	(tpy)	(tpd)	(tpy)	(tpd)
Ahlstrom-Munksjö.	Emission limits, unit shut-downs, fuel changes.	2,422	8.17	* 1,280	6.13	– 1,142	– 2.04	2,195	6.13

\* Annual emissions for 2018 are lower than the projected annual maintenance year emissions because Ahlstrom-Munksjö boiler B26 was not operational from mid-May to mid-October 2018

Section 176(c) of the CAA requires states to establish criteria and procedures to ensure that federally supported or funded projects conform to the air quality planning goals in the applicable SIP. The requirement to determine conformity applies to transportation plans, programs, and projects that are developed, funded, or approved under title 23 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) and the Federal Transit Act (transportation conformity) as well as to all other federally supported or funded projects (general conformity). State transportation conformity SIP revisions must be consistent with Federal conformity regulations relating to consultation, enforcement, and enforceability that EPA promulgated pursuant to its authority under the CAA. Based on EPA's 2014 SO<sub>2</sub> guidance, transportation conformity only applies to SO<sub>2</sub> SIPs if transportation-related emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> as a precursor are a significant contributor to a PM<sub>2.5</sub> nonattainment problem, or if the SIP has established an approved or adequate budget for such emissions as part of the RFP, attainment or maintenance strategy, neither of which apply to the Rhinelander area. Nevertheless, EPA approved Wisconsin's transportation conformity procedures on February 27, 2014 (79 FR 10995). EPA approved Wisconsin's general conformity procedures on July 29, 1996 (61 FR 39329).

Based on the above, EPA is proposing to find that Wisconsin has satisfied the

applicable requirements for the redesignation of the Rhinelander nonattainment area under section 110 and part D of title I of the CAA.

**VII. What action is EPA taking?**

In accordance with Wisconsin's July 28, 2021, request, EPA is proposing to redesignate the Rhinelander nonattainment area from nonattainment to attainment of the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. The redesignation will not be effective until EPA approves the Wisconsin attainment plan for the Rhinelander area. EPA finds that Wisconsin has demonstrated that the area is attaining the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS and that the improvement in air quality is due to permanent and enforceable SO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions in the area. EPA is also proposing to approve Wisconsin's maintenance plan, which is designed to ensure that the area will continue to maintain the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS.

**VIII. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews**

Under the CAA, redesignation of an area to attainment and the accompanying approval of a maintenance plan under section 107(d)(3)(E) are actions that affect the status of a geographical area and do not impose any additional regulatory requirements on sources beyond those imposed by state law. A redesignation to attainment does not in and of itself create any new requirements, but rather results in the applicability of requirements contained in the CAA for

areas that have been redesignated to attainment. Moreover, the Administrator is required to approve a SIP submission that complies with the provisions of the CAA and applicable Federal regulations. 42 U.S.C. 7410(k); 40 CFR 52.02(a). Thus, in reviewing SIP submissions, EPA's role is to approve state choices, provided that they meet the criteria of the CAA. Accordingly, this action merely approves state law as meeting Federal requirements and does not impose additional requirements beyond those imposed by state law. For that reason, this action:

- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Orders 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993) and 13563 (76 FR 3821, January 21, 2011);
- Does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*);
- Is certified as not having a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*);
- 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);
- Does not have federalism implications as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999);

- Is not an economically significant regulatory action based on health or safety risks subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997);

- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to Executive Order 13211 (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001);

- Is not subject to requirements of Section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) because application of those requirements would be inconsistent with the CAA; and

- Does not provide EPA with the discretionary authority to address, as appropriate, disproportionate human health or environmental effects, using practicable and legally permissible methods, under Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994).

In addition, the SIP is not approved to apply on any Indian reservation land or in any other area where EPA or an Indian tribe has demonstrated that a tribe has jurisdiction. In those areas of Indian country, the rule does not have tribal implications and will not impose substantial direct costs on tribal governments or preempt tribal law as specified by Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000), because redesignation is an action that affects the status of a geographical area and does not impose any new regulatory requirements on tribes, impact any existing sources of air pollution on tribal lands, nor impair the maintenance of SO<sub>2</sub> national ambient air quality standards on tribal lands.

#### List of Subjects

##### 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Sulfur oxides.

##### 40 CFR Part 81

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, National parks, Wilderness areas.

Dated: November 8, 2021.

**Cheryl Newton,**

*Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 5.*  
[FR Doc. 2021-24915 Filed 11-16-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### 40 CFR Part 721

[EPA-HQ-OPPT-2021-0227; FRL-8985-01-OCSPF]

RIN 2070-AB27

### Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (21-2.F)

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** EPA is proposing significant new use rules (SNURs) under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) for chemical substances that were the subject of premanufacture notices (PMNs). The chemical substances received “not likely to present an unreasonable risk” determinations pursuant to TSCA. The SNURs require persons who intend to manufacture (defined by statute to include import) or process any of these chemical substances for an activity that is proposed as a significant new use by this rule to notify EPA at least 90 days before commencing that activity. The required notification initiates EPA’s evaluation of the use, under the conditions of use for that chemical substance, within the applicable review period. Persons may not commence manufacture or processing for the significant new use until EPA has conducted a review of the notice, made an appropriate determination on the notice, and has taken such actions as are required by that determination.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before December 17, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA-HQ-OPPT-2021-0227, through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute.

Due to the public health concerns related to COVID-19, the EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC) and Reading Room is closed to visitors with limited exceptions. The staff continues to provide remote customer service via email, phone, and webform. For the latest status information on EPA/DC services and docket access, visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

*For technical information contact:*  
William Wysong, New Chemicals

Division (7405M), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460-0001; telephone number: (202) 564-4163; email address: [wysong.william@epa.gov](mailto:wysong.william@epa.gov).

*For general information contact:* The TSCA-Hotline, ABVI-Goodwill, 422 South Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY 14620; telephone number: (202) 554-1404; email address: [TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov](mailto:TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. General Information

##### A. Does this action apply to me?

You may be potentially affected by this action if you manufacture, process, or use the chemical substances contained in this proposed rule. The following list of North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide to help readers determine whether this document applies to them. Potentially affected entities may include:

- Manufacturers or processors of one or more subject chemical substances (NAICS codes 325 and 324110), e.g., chemical manufacturing and petroleum refineries.

This action may also affect certain entities through pre-existing import certification and export notification rules under TSCA. Chemical importers are subject to the TSCA section 13 (15 U.S.C. 2612) import provisions promulgated at 19 CFR 12.118 through 12.127 and 19 CFR 127.28. Chemical importers must certify that the shipment of the chemical substance complies with all applicable rules and Orders under TSCA, which would include the SNUR requirements should these proposed rules be finalized. The EPA policy in support of import certification appears at 40 CFR part 707, subpart B. In addition, pursuant to 40 CFR 721.20 any persons who export or intend to export a chemical substance that is the subject of this proposed rule on or after December 17, 2021 are subject to the export notification provisions of TSCA section 12(b) (15 U.S.C. 2611(b)) (see 40 CFR 721.20), and must comply with the export notification requirements in 40 CFR part 707, subpart D.

##### B. What should I consider as I prepare my comments for EPA?

1. *Submitting CBI.* Do not submit this information to EPA through [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) or email. Clearly mark the part or all of the information that you claim to be CBI. For CBI information in a disk or CD-ROM that you mail to EPA, mark the outside of the