

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**40 CFR Part 52****[EPA–R01–OAR–2021–0353; FRL–8916–02–R1]****Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; 2015 Ozone NAAQS Interstate Transport Requirements****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is approving a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the State of Connecticut as meeting the Clean Air Act (CAA) requirement that each State's SIP contain adequate provisions to prohibit emissions that will significantly contribute to nonattainment or interfere with maintenance of the 2015 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) in any other state. This action is being taken in accordance with the CAA.

DATES: This rule is effective on January 19, 2022.

ADDRESSES: EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket Identification No. EPA–R01–OAR–2021–0353. All documents in the docket are listed on the <https://www.regulations.gov> website. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, *i.e.*, CBI or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available at <https://www.regulations.gov> or at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Region 1 Regional Office, Air and Radiation Division, 5 Post Office Square—Suite 100, Boston, MA. 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, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding legal holidays and facility closures due to COVID–19.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alison C. Simcox, Air Quality Branch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Region 1, 5 Post Office Square—Suite 100, (Mail code 05–2), Boston, MA 02109–3912, tel. (617) 918–1684, email simcox.alison@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Throughout this document whenever “we,” “us,” or “our” is used, we mean EPA.

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I. Background and Purpose

On August 30, 2021, EPA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for the State of Connecticut. *See* 86 FR 48357. The NPRM proposed approval of a Connecticut SIP revision that addresses the CAA requirement prohibiting emissions from the state that significantly contribute to nonattainment or interfere with maintenance of the 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS in other states. *See* CAA section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) (the “good neighbor provision”). The SIP revision was submitted to EPA by Connecticut on December 6, 2018. The rationale for EPA's proposed action is given in the NPRM and will not be repeated here. EPA received no public comments on the NPRM.

II. Final Action

EPA is approving a Connecticut SIP revision, which was submitted on December 6, 2018. This submission is approved as meeting CAA section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) requirements that Connecticut's SIP includes adequate provisions prohibiting any source or other type of emissions activity within the state from emitting any air pollutant in amounts that will contribute significantly to nonattainment or interfere with maintenance of the 2015 ozone NAAQS in any other state.

IV. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

Under the Clean Air Act, the Administrator is required to approve a SIP submission that complies with the provisions of the Act 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 Clean Air Act. 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 Clean Air Act; 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).

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 action 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 February 18, 2022. Filing a petition for reconsideration by the Administrator of this final rule does not affect the finality of this action 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, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Lead, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Particulate matter, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Sulfur oxides, Volatile organic compounds.

Dated: December 13, 2021.

Deborah Szaro,

Acting Regional Administrator, EPA Region 1.

Part 52 of chapter I, title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 52—APPROVAL AND PROMULGATION OF IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 52 continues to read as follows:

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

Subpart H—Connecticut

■ 2. Section 52.370 is amended by adding paragraph (c)(126) to read as follows:

§ 52.370 Identification of plan

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(126) Revisions to the State Implementation Plan submitted by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection on December 6, 2018.

(i) [Reserved]

(ii) Additional materials.

(A) The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection document, “Connecticut Good Neighbor SIP for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard.” Final, December 6, 2018.

(B) [Reserved]

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■ 3. Section 52.386 is amended by adding paragraph (f) to read as follows:

§ 52.386 Section 110(a)(2) infrastructure requirements.

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(f) The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection submitted the following infrastructure SIP on this date: 2015 ozone NAAQS—December 6, 2018 (CAA § 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) transport provisions). This infrastructure SIP is approved.

[FR Doc. 2021–27433 Filed 12–17–21; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 171

[EPA–HQ–OPP–2021–0831; FRL–9134–02–OCSPF]

RIN 2070–AL00

Pesticides; Certification of Pesticide Applicators; Extension to Expiration Date of Certification Plans

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Interim final rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is extending the expiration deadline of existing Federal, state, territory, and tribal certification plans. This deadline was established in 2017 when the EPA promulgated a final rule revising the Certification of Pesticide Applicators (CPA) regulations to improve the competency of certified applicators of restricted use pesticides (RUPs), increase protection for noncertified applicators using RUPs under the direct supervision of a certified applicator through enhanced pesticide safety training and standards for supervision of noncertified applicators, and establish a minimum age requirement for certified and noncertified applicators using RUPs under the direct supervision of a certified applicator. Federal, state, territory, and tribal certifying authorities with existing certification plans were required to revise their existing certification plans to conform with the updated Federal standards for the certification of applicators of RUPs and submit their revisions for EPA review in March 2020. The existing plans are set to expire on March 4, 2022, unless the revised plans are approved by the Agency. EPA is extending the existing plans’ expiration deadline to November 4, 2022. This will allow additional time for proposed certification plan modifications to continue being

reviewed and approved by EPA without interruption to federal, state, territory, and tribal certification programs or to those who are certified to use RUPs under those programs. The extension also provides EPA with additional time to issue a proposed rule and seek public comment on the need for extending the expiration date beyond November 4, 2022.

DATES:

Effective date: This interim final rule is effective on February 18, 2022.

Comment due date: Comments on the interim final rule must be received on or before January 19, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA–HQ–OPP–2021–0831, using 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. Additional instructions on commenting or visiting the docket, along with more information about dockets generally, is available at <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/about-epa-dockets>.

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:

Carolyn Schroeder, Pesticide Re-Evaluation Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460–0001; telephone number: (202) 566–2376; email address: schroeder.carolyn@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Executive Summary

A. Does this action apply to me?

You may be potentially affected by this action if you are a federal, state, territory, or tribal agency who administers a certification program for pesticides applicators. You may also be potentially affected by this action if you are: A registrant of RUP products; a person who applies RUPs, including those under the direct supervision of a certified applicator; a person who relies upon the availability of RUPs; someone who hires a certified applicator to apply an RUP; a pesticide safety educator; or