

- Does the format of the proposed priorities, requirements, and definition (grouping and order of sections, use of headings, paragraphing, etc.) aid or reduce their clarity?
- Would the proposed priorities, requirements, and definition be easier to understand if we divided them into more (but shorter) sections?
- Could the description of the proposed priorities, requirements, and definition in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this preamble be more helpful in making the proposed priorities, requirements, and definition easier to understand? If so, how?
- What else could we do to make the proposed priorities, requirements, and definition easier to understand?

To send any comments that concern how the Department could make these proposed priorities, requirements, and definition easier to understand, see the instructions in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Intergovernmental Review: This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. One of the objectives of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism. The Executive order relies on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

This document provides early notification of our specific plans and actions for this program.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

The Secretary certifies that these proposed priorities, requirements, and definition would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

The small entities that this proposed regulatory action would affect are IHEs that meet the eligibility requirements described in section 241(1) of the HEA. The Secretary believes that the costs imposed on applicants by the proposed priorities, requirements, and definition would be limited to paperwork burden related to preparing an application and that the benefits would outweigh any costs incurred by applicants.

Participation in this program is voluntary. For this reason, the proposed priorities, requirements, and definition would impose no burden on small entities unless they applied for funding under the program. We expect that in determining whether to apply for Hawkins Program funds, an eligible applicant would evaluate the requirements of preparing an application and any associated costs, and weigh them against the benefits likely to be achieved by receiving a

Hawkins Program grant. Eligible applicants most likely would apply only if they determine that the likely benefits exceed the costs of preparing an application. The likely benefits include the potential receipt of a grant as well as other benefits that may accrue to an entity through its development of an application, such as the use of that application to seek funding from other sources to address the teacher shortage present in the Nation's high need-need public schools.

This proposed regulatory action would not have a significant economic impact on a small entity once it receives a grant because it would be able to meet the costs of compliance using the funds provided under this program. We invite comments from eligible small entities as to whether they believe this proposed regulatory action would have a significant economic impact on them and, if so, request evidence to support that belief.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

These proposed priorities, requirements, and definition do not contain any information collection requirements.

Accessible Format: On request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc, or other accessible format.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. You may access the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations at www.govinfo.gov. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at www.federalregister.gov. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit

your search to documents published by the Department.

Nasser Paydar,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 2024–01972 Filed 1–31–24; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA–R04–OAR–2023–0096; FRL–11663–01–R4]

Air Plan Approval; Florida; Revisions to the State Implementation Plan Conformity Rule

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to approve a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) through a letter dated August 12, 2022. The revision updates the general conformity portion of the conformity rule in Florida's SIP. EPA is proposing to approve these changes pursuant to the Clean Air Act (CAA or Act).

DATES: Comments must be received on or before March 4, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–R04–OAR–2023–0096 at regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from Regulations.gov. 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, the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Josue Ortiz Borrero, Air Regulatory Management Section, Air Planning and Implementation Branch, Air and Radiation Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303–8960. Mr. Ortiz can be reached via phone number (404) 562–8085 or via electronic mail at ortizborrero.josue@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

General conformity is a requirement of CAA section 176(c). General conformity prohibits Federal actions within nonattainment and maintenance areas unless the emissions from the actions conform to the applicable SIP, Tribal Implementation Plan (TIP), or Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) for the area.¹ Conformity to an implementation plan means conformity to an implementation plan's purpose of eliminating or reducing the severity and number of violations of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS or standards) and achieving expeditious attainment of such standards. See section 176(c)(1). Under general conformity, Federal actions cannot: (1) Cause or contribute to any new violation of any standard in any area; (2) increase the frequency or severity of any existing violation of any air quality standard in any area; or (3) delay timely attainment of any standard, any required interim emission reductions, or any other milestones, in any area. *Id.*

EPA promulgated two sets of conformity regulations in November 1993 to implement section 176(c) of the CAA. First, EPA promulgated transportation conformity regulations, which apply to highways and mass transit, on November 24, 1993. See 58 FR 62188. These regulations establish the criteria and procedures for determining whether transportation plans, programs, and projects funded under 23 U.S.C. or the Federal Transit Act (40 U.S.C. chapter 53) conform with implementation plans. EPA subsequently revised the transportation conformity regulations several times.

¹ “Federal action” is defined at 40 CFR 93.152 as “any activity engaged in by a department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal government, or any activity that a department, agency or instrumentality of the Federal government supports in any way, provides financial assistance for, licenses, permits, or approves, other than activities related to transportation plans, programs, and projects developed, funded, or approved under title 23 U.S.C. or the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*). Where the Federal action is a permit, license, or other approval for some aspect of a non-Federal undertaking, the relevant activity is the part, portion, or phase of the non-Federal undertaking that requires the Federal permit, license, or approval.”

See 69 FR 40004 (July 1, 2004); 70 FR 24280 (May 6, 2005); 71 FR 12468 (March 10, 2006); and 73 FR 4420 (January 24, 2008). Second, on November 30, 1993, EPA promulgated the general conformity regulations at 40 CFR part 51, subpart W and 40 CFR part 93, subpart B, which applied to all other Federal actions to ensure they conformed with implementation plans. See 58 FR 63214. EPA has revised its general conformity regulations twice. See 71 FR 40420 (July 17, 2006) and 75 FR 17254 (April 5, 2010). As part of the 2010 revisions, EPA revised its general conformity regulations to remove rules from 40 CFR part 51, subpart W that were duplicative of those in 40 CFR part 93, subpart B. See 75 FR 17254 (April 5, 2010).²

Florida Rule 62–204.500, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), *Conformity*, addresses general conformity in paragraph (1). EPA incorporated Rule 62–204.500 into the Florida SIP in a direct final rule on August 11, 2003. See 68 FR 47468. Since then, Florida has amended Rule 62–204.500, and those changes are the subject of this notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).³

II. EPA's Analysis of Florida's Submittal

Florida's August 12, 2022, SIP revision updates Rule 62–204.500, *Conformity*. Specifically, the SIP revision changes the “General Conformity” section at paragraph (1) by updating cross-references.

Florida's SIP revision updates two cross-references in paragraph (1) of Rule 62–204.500. Specifically, the revision replaces two cross-references that refer to 40 CFR part 51, subpart W, with references to 40 CFR part 93, subpart B. The SIP-approved version of paragraph (1), states that it applies to state review of all Federal general conformity determinations submitted to the state pursuant to 40 CFR part 51, subpart W. It also states that pursuant to 40 CFR part 51, subpart W, Federal agencies are required to make conformity determinations to ensure that certain Federal actions are consistent with the SIP. As mentioned in Section I of this notice, EPA removed rules from 40 CFR

part 51, subpart W that were duplicative of those in 40 CFR part 93, subpart B. Because the SIP-approved version of Rule 62–204.500 relies on the duplicative rules that EPA removed from 40 CFR part 51, the SIP-approved rule is outdated. EPA is proposing to approve the changes to paragraph (1) because they update the cross-references to the correct location of the implementing requirements for general conformity.

III. Incorporation by Reference

In this document, the 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, and as discussed in Section II of this preamble, the EPA is proposing to incorporate by reference Florida Rule 62–204.500, F.A.C., *Conformity*, state effective on October 23, 2016, except for 62–204.500(1)(a), 62–204.500(1)(b), 62–204.500(1)(c), and 62–204.500(1)(d). The EPA has made, and will continue to make, the SIP generally available through 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

For the reasons discussed above, EPA is proposing to approve the August 12, 2022, Florida SIP revision updating Rule 62–204.500, *Conformity*, in the Florida SIP.

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 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 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 14094 (88 FR 21879, April 11, 2023);
- Does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*);

² For more information on general conformity, see <https://www.epa.gov/general-conformity>.

³ The August 12, 2022, submittal transmits several changes to other Florida SIP-approved rules. These changes are not addressed in this proposed rulemaking and will be considered by EPA in separate rulemakings. In addition, EPA will not act on subsections 62–204.500(1)(a)–(1)(d), F.A.C., because they were withdrawn from EPA consideration in a letter dated January 5, 2024, which is in the docket for this proposed rulemaking.

- 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 subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997) because it approves a state program;

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

- 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.

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 proposed 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).

Executive Order 12898 (Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, 59 FR 7629, Feb. 16, 1994) directs Federal agencies to identify and address

“disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects” of their actions on minority populations and low-income populations to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law. EPA defines environmental justice (EJ) as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” EPA further defines the term fair treatment to mean that “no group of people should bear a disproportionate burden of environmental harms and risks, including those resulting from the negative environmental consequences of industrial, governmental, and commercial operations or programs and policies.”

The FDEP did not evaluate EJ considerations as part of its SIP submittal; the CAA and applicable implementing regulations neither

prohibit nor require such an evaluation. EPA did not perform an EJ analysis and did not consider EJ in this proposed action. Due to the nature of the action being proposed here, this proposed action is expected to have a neutral to positive impact on the air quality of the affected area. Consideration of EJ is not required as part of this proposed action, and there is no information in the record inconsistent with the stated goal of E.O. 12898 of achieving EJ for people of color, low-income populations, and Indigenous peoples.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Particulate matter, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Sulfur oxides.

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

Dated: January 17, 2024.

Jeanne Gettle,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 4.

[FR Doc. 2024–01670 Filed 1–31–24; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Parts 0, 1, and 16

[GN Docket No. 22–69; FCC 23–100; FR ID 197453]

Implement the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Prevention and Elimination of Digital Discrimination

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) proposes rules regarding affirmative obligations for broadband providers, through: annual reports that facilitate greater transparency regarding substantial broadband projects recently completed by providers, and internal compliance programs requiring periodic evaluation of the demographics of communities served—and not served—by such recently completed projects, as well as pending and planned substantial projects. The Commission also seeks comment on establishing an Office of Civil Rights.

DATES: Comments are due on or before March 4, 2024, and reply comments are due on or before April 1, 2024. Written comments on the Paperwork Reduction Act proposed information collection requirements must be submitted by the

public and other interested parties on or before April 1, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by GN Docket No. 22–69, by any of the following methods:

- *Federal Communications Commission’s Website:* <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *People With Disabilities:* Contact the FCC to request reasonable accommodations (accessible format documents, sign language interpreters, CART, etc.) by email: FCC504@fcc.gov or phone: 202–418–0530 or TTY: 202–418–0432.

For detailed instructions for submitting comments and additional information on the rulemaking process, see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document. Send a copy of your comment on the proposed information collection to Nicole Ongele, FCC, via email to PRA@fcc.gov or Nicole.Ongele@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Aurélie Mathieu, at (202) 418–2194, Aurelie.Mathieu@fcc.gov. For additional information concerning the Paperwork Reduction Act information collection requirements contained in this document, send an email to PRA@fcc.gov or contact Nicole Ongele, Nicole.Ongele@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission’s Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (*Further Notice*) in GN Docket No. 22–69, FCC 23–100, adopted on November 15, 2023, and released on November 20, 2023.

The full text of this document is available for download at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-23-100A1.pdf>. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (*e.g.*, braille, large print, electronic files, audio format, etc.), send an email to FCC504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418–0530 (voice) or (202) 418–0432 (TTY).

Providing Accountability Through Transparency Act: The Providing Accountability Through Transparency Act, Public Law 118–9, requires each agency, in providing notice of a rulemaking, to post online a brief plain-language summary of the proposed rule. The required summary of this Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/proposed-rulemakings>.

Initial Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Analysis: This document contains proposed information collection requirements. The Commission, as part