

verifiable attempts to contact the mortgagor utilizing methods determined by the Secretary.”

Mortgagees have repeatedly stated that they require sufficient time to update their processes and procedures, including making updates to their information technology, staff training, internal standard operating procedures, revisions to contracts, and mortgagor-facing documents and communication. Mortgagees have also stated the need for adequate time to update their internal quality controls, hire additional staff, align their procedures for HUD’s new requirements with requirements from other Federal agencies, establish new contracts for specific outreach methods, and update internal documentation requirements, among other things.

Given that HUD has not yet provided guidance on complying with the revised requirements to 24 CFR 203.604(a)(3) to enable Mortgagees to begin adjusting their processes and procedures, HUD is partially extending the compliance period for the Modernization of Engagement with Mortgagors in Default final rule until July 1, 2025, to permit mortgagees to continue to rely upon two exceptions to the meeting requirements that exist in § 203.604(c) as it is currently codified.

The two additional exceptions that mortgagees may continue to rely upon are that a meeting with the mortgagor is not required if:

(1) The mortgagor does not reside in the mortgaged property; and

(2) The mortgaged property is not within 200 miles of the mortgagee, its servicer, or a branch office of either.

HUD believes that this partial extension of the compliance period will allow mortgagees sufficient time to implement the guidance in the forthcoming Modernization of Engagement with Borrowers in Default Mortgage Letter<sup>1</sup> and to ensure mortgagee compliance with the revised requirements in 24 CFR 203.604. Mortgagees may optionally elect to comply with the entirety of the Modernization of Engagement with Mortgagors in Default final rule beginning on January 1, 2025, the effective date of the rule.

**Julia R. Gordon,**

*Assistant Secretary for Housing, Federal Housing Commissioner.*

[FR Doc. 2024–27077 Filed 11–20–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4210–67–P**

<sup>1</sup> When the Modernization of Engagement with Borrowers in Default Mortgage Letter is published, it will be accessible at [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/administration/hudclips/letters/mortgagee](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/administration/hudclips/letters/mortgagee) until incorporated into the Single Family Housing Policy Handbook 4000.1.

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

**Coast Guard**

**33 CFR Part 100**

[Docket No. USCG–2024–0870]

**Special Local Regulations; Marine Events Within the Eleventh Coast Guard District**

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.

**ACTION:** Notification of enforcement of regulation.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard will enforce a special local regulation on the waters of Mission Bay, CA, during the Mission Bay Parade of Lights on December 14, 2024. This special local regulation is necessary to provide for the safety of the participants, crew, sponsor vessels of the event, and general users of the waterway. During the enforcement period, persons and vessels are prohibited from entering, transiting through, or anchoring within this regulated area unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Sector San Diego or their designated representative.

**DATES:** The regulations in 33 CFR 100.1101 will be enforced for the location identified in Table 1 to § 100.1101, Item number 6, from 5:30 p.m. through 8 p.m. on December 14, 2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you have questions about this notification of enforcement, call or email Lieutenant Shelley Turner, Waterways Management, U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Diego, CA; telephone (619) 278–7656, email [MarineEventsSD@uscg.mil](mailto:MarineEventsSD@uscg.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Coast Guard will enforce the special local regulations in 33 CFR 100.1101 for the location identified in Item No. 6 in Table 1 to § 100.1101, from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. on December 14, 2024, for the Mission Bay Parade of Lights in Mission Bay, CA. This action is being taken to provide for the safety of life on the navigable waterways during the event. Our regulation for recurring marine events in the San Diego Captain of the Port Zone, § 100.1101, Item No. 6 in Table 1 to § 100.1101, specifies the location of the regulated area for the Mission Bay Parade of Lights, which encompasses portions of Mission Bay. Under the provisions of § 100.1101, persons and vessels are prohibited from entering, transiting through, or anchoring within this regulated area unless authorized by the Captain of the Port, or his designated representative.

The Coast Guard may be assisted by other Federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies in enforcing this regulation.

In addition to this notification of enforcement in the **Federal Register**, the Coast Guard will provide the maritime community with advance notification of this enforcement period via the Local Notice to Mariners and marine information broadcasts.

**P.C. Dill,**

*Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port Sector San Diego.*

[FR Doc. 2024–27125 Filed 11–20–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 9110–04–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

**Coast Guard**

**33 CFR Part 165**

[Docket Number USCG–2024–0404]

**RIN 1625–AA00**

**Safety Zone; Hackensack River, Kearny and Secaucus, NJ**

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.

**ACTION:** Temporary interim rule and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary safety zone for certain waters of the Hackensack River. This action is necessary to provide for the safety of life on these navigable waters near the Portal Bridge during construction between November 2024 and December 2025. When enforced, entry of vessels or persons into this zone is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Captain of the Port New York or a designated representative.

**DATES:**

*Effective date:* Effective November 21, 2024, through 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2025.

*Comments due date:* Comments and related material must be received by the Coast Guard on or before February 19, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** To view documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <https://www.regulations.gov>, type USCG–2024–0404 in the search box and click “Search.” Next, in the Document Type column, select “Supporting & Related Material.”

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you have questions about this rule, call or email Jeffrey Yunker, Waterways Management Division, U.S. Coast Guard

Sector New York; telephone 718-354-4195, email [Jeffrey.M.Yunker@uscg.mil](mailto:Jeffrey.M.Yunker@uscg.mil).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### I. Table of Abbreviations

APA Administrative Procedure Act  
 CFR Code of Federal Regulations  
 COTP Captain of the Port New York  
 DHS Department of Homeland Security  
 FR Federal Register  
 NPRM Notice of proposed rulemaking  
 PNB Portal North Bridge  
 RNA Regulated Navigation Area  
 § Section  
 U.S.C. United States Code

### II. Background Information and Regulatory History

In partnership with New Jersey Transit, Amtrak plans to replace the Amtrak Portal Bridge across the Hackensack River, mile 5.0, at Little Snake Hill, New Jersey. On April 2, 2024, Skanska Traylor Portal North Bridge (PNB) Joint Venture notified the Coast Guard that it is requesting three 14-day periods of waterway closures on the Hackensack River to install three new bridge spans for the replacement Portal North Bridge. The purpose of the requested 14-day period is to position and secure a 400-foot-long bridge span over the waterway. The bridge span will be set on temporary shoring north of the existing bridge and a 100-foot-wide crane barge will then lift the bridge span from the temporary shoring using anchor lines and tugboats. The crane barge will move into the new bridge alignment position using anchor lines and tugboats, jack the new bridge span, set the new span onto the temporary supports, and slide the bridge span into the final position. Once the bridge span is set, the crane barge, support barges, and anchor lines will be removed out of the channel to prepare for the subsequent bridge span erection. This procedure will occur three times during separate 14-day periods of time.

After determining that establishment of safety zones was necessary to provide for the safety of life, property, and the environment during the anticipated construction of the bridge, on August 1, 2024, the Coast Guard published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) titled *Safety Zone; Hackensack River, Kearny and Secaucus, NJ* (89 FR 62689). There we explained the basis for the NPRM and invited comments on our proposed regulatory action related to the heavy lift operations during this bridge construction project. During the comment period that ended September 3, 2024, we received two comments.

The NPRM proposed an effective date of November 15, 2024, for the safety zone. However, due to project delays we

are making the effective date November 21, 2024.

Additionally, separate from this rulemaking, the contractor held a mariners meeting on September 18, 2024, after the comment period closed on September 3, 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a more detailed presentation of the operations required to deliver the new bridge spans by barge, position the barge carrying the three individual bridge spans and the crane barge that will conduct the heavy lift operations to position the new bridge spans on the new bridge, and then remove the barges from the navigable channel. The two companies that submitted written comments to the NPRM were in attendance at the meeting and agreed that all vessel traffic must cease operations during the erection process of the three new bridge spans.

Under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for making this rule effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**. Delaying the effective date of this rule would be impracticable and contrary to public interest because prompt action is needed to respond to the potential safety hazards associated with three separate bridge span float-ins and heavy lift operations installing the spans at the new Portal Bridge North.

Although this regulation is published as an interim rule with prior notice and comment, continued public comment is nevertheless desirable to ensure that the safety zone is both workable and reasonable throughout its effective period. Accordingly, persons wishing to comment may do so by submitting written comments as set out under **ADDRESSES** in this preamble. Commenters should include their names and addresses, identify the docket number for the regulation, and give reasons for their comments. If the Coast Guard determines that changes to the temporary interim rule are necessary, we will publish a temporary final rule or other appropriate document.

### III. Legal Authority and Need for Rule

The Coast Guard is issuing this rule under the authority in 46 U.S.C. 70034. The Captain of the Port New York (COTP) has determined that potential hazards associated with the heavy lift operations while installing three new bridge spans between November 2024 and February 2025 will be a safety concern for users of the waterway between the New Jersey Turnpike/I-95 Fixed Bridge (River Mile 5.3) and 150 feet south of the existing Portal Bridge (River Mile 5.0). The purpose of this rule is to ensure safety of vessels and

the navigable waters in the safety zone in light of these hazards before, during, and after the heavy lift operations.

### IV. Discussion of Comments, Changes, and the Rule

As noted above, we received two comments on our NPRM published August 1, 2024. We provide a detailed discussion below in response to each comment in turn.

We received one comment from Vinik Marine Services, LLC dated September 3, 2024. The comment letter included the following three specific concerns:

1. *Lack of Transparency*: The commenter stated that the NPRM is misleading because it does not address the horizontal clearance reduction of the existing bridge from 91.5 feet to 52.5 feet because the existing swing bridge will not have the capability to fully open due to the location of the new bridge.

*Coast Guard Response*: The commenter's concern regarding the horizontal clearance is outside the scope of this rulemaking regarding the establishment of a safety zone. The reduction in the horizontal clearance of the existing bridge is addressed in a separate rulemaking by the First Coast Guard District Bridge Program under Docket number USCG-2024-0412 published on October 3, 2024, in the **Federal Register** (89 FR 80436). In that case, the proposed regulation would modify the existing bridge operation regulations under 33 CFR 117, whereas this rulemaking project is for the blockage of the Hackensack River in vicinity of the existing Portal Bridge, which necessitates creation of a safety zone under 33 CFR 165. While both actions are related to the construction of the new Portal Bridge, they are two distinct regulatory actions with different impacts on the public. Comments for this rulemaking and related material were due to the Coast Guard before the conclusion of the comment period on November 4, 2024. The Coast Guard anticipates that the proposed rule for the bridge operation regulation (USCG-2024-0412) will be effective on or about February 1, 2025.

2. *Financial Impact on Hackensack River Small Business Marine Contractors*: The commenter stated the proposed river closures could significantly strain the Hackensack River marine contractors potentially leading to employee layoffs and a significant drop in revenue. Additionally, the difficulty in serving customers effectively could lead to losing business to other transportation modes like trucking, damage business reputation, and create an inability to

fulfill contractual obligations with government agencies. Finally, the commenter stated that Coast Guard provided no basis for the assertion that this rulemaking would not impact small businesses.

*Coast Guard Response:* During a mariners meeting held on September 18, 2024, by Skanska Traylor Portal North Bridge (PNB) Joint Venture, which was not part of this rulemaking project, all attendees, including Vinik Marine and Spectraserv, agreed that all vessel traffic must cease operations during the erection process of the three new bridge spans due to the presented hazards. Closing the waterway via a safety zone during these hazardous operations is necessary to ensure safety of waterway users, specifically the construction barge workers. While we acknowledge some financial impact may occur because of this safety zone, the need to ensure safety of human life is paramount. Planning efforts by Skanska Traylor Joint Venture have reduced the potential financial impact while maximizing safety. Specifically, the Skanska Traylor Joint Venture has requested three 14-day waterway closures during heavy lift operations to accommodate any possible weather or schedule delays. After setting the first bridge span, Skanska Traylor stated that they will reevaluate whether the 14-day period can be modified to resume marine traffic and minimize impacts to waterway users. Therefore, while some financial impact may occur as asserted by the commenter, the Coast Guard determines the impact to not be significant due to the limited duration the safety zone will be enforced and opportunity for further reduction in the enforcement period after reevaluation by Skanska Taylor.

3. *Overall Impact:* The commenter stated the COTP has mischaracterized this action as a safety zone when it is attempting to implement a “Regulated Navigation Area” (RNA) under 33 CFR 165 and the COTP does not have the legal authority to do that. The commenter further stated that establishing an RNA would allow the District Commander to balance the needs of vessel owners and operators with that of the construction project company and the bridge owner—something the COTP has not done. The commenter stated this is a fundamental failure by the COTP to follow the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) and exemplified the lack of transparency and accountability regarding how this construction is being carried out and the lack of notice to and involvement of the maritime industry.

*Coast Guard Response:* Having found the hazards presented during heavy lift operations at the Portal Bridge and the need to ensure public safety, the COTP is acting within his authority and discretion to create and enforce a safety zone in this case. A safety zone limits access to the area and ensures that vessels maintain a safe distance from the construction site, significantly minimizing risk. An RNA on the other hand, is intended to be responsive to areas of high vessel congestion or ongoing construction and is unable to ensure the same level of access control and safety for waterway users. The commenter’s claims that the COTP is not adhering to the APA due to lack of notice and participation by the maritime industry are inaccurate. The Coast Guard published an NPRM for this safety zone, which provided the public with 33 days during which to submit public comments. Additionally, this temporary interim rulemaking continues its commitment to providing sufficient notice and opportunity for public comment.

We received a second comment from Spectraserv Inc stating they do not object to the proposed three 14-day window closures on the Hackensack River to install the three new bridge spans. However, Spectraserv did object to all unscheduled closures or hindrances to navigation created by the contractor’s repeated inability or unwillingness to shift the construction equipment clear of the channel for scheduled routine transits. This comment is outside the scope of this rulemaking to establish a safety zone.

After considering the comments discussed above, the Coast Guard determined that no changes should be made to the regulatory text of this rule from the proposed language in the NPRM other than to highlight how we will make notice of enforcement periods and to delay the effective period starting date until November 21, 2024, because of project delays. As written, the Coast Guard believes that the rule ensures consistency, sufficient notice, and improved safety while minimizing impact on vessel transits.

As noted in our NPRM, the original waterway closure dates were scheduled to begin on November 15, 2024, December 10, 2024, and January 13, 2025. On October 7, 2024, the bridge owner’s representative notified the Coast Guard that two hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico have delayed the heavy lift barge fit-out and delivery by nine days. This barge is being used to deliver the three new bridge spans to the project work site on the Hackensack River. The bridge owner’s representative stated any

impacts to the second bridge span delivery schedule have not yet been determined.

The first of three 14-day windows of full waterway closures has been delayed and is now anticipated to begin November 21, 2024, through December 4, 2024. For this reason, we are changing the effective dates in the regulatory text of this rule from the proposed rule in the NPRM. The anticipated dates for the second and third, 14-day windows of full waterway closures remain December 10, 2024, through December 23, 2024, and January 13, 2025, through January 26, 2025. The Coast Guard will make notice of each enforcement period of the safety zone via the Local Notice to Mariners and issue a Broadcast Notice to Mariners via marine channel 16 (VHF-FM) as soon as practicable. In addition, as discussed in the NPRM, the rule will remain effective through December 31, 2025, in case the project is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. If the project is completed before December 31, 2025, enforcement of the safety zone will be suspended, and notice given via Local Notice to Mariners. The First Coast Guard District Local Notice to Mariners can be found at: <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov>. Additionally, a 90-day comment period will run concurrently with this temporary interim rule to ensure that the regulation is both workable and reasonable. The safety zone will only be enforced during periods when heavy lift operations at the new bridge are in progress. All dates are tentative and subject to change due to weather, supply chain delays, or other unforeseen circumstances as noted above caused by two previous hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico.

If the Coast Guard determines that changes to the temporary interim rule are necessary, we will publish a temporary final rule or other appropriate document to address these changes.

## V. Regulatory Analyses

We developed this rule after considering numerous statutes and Executive orders related to rulemaking. Below we summarize our analyses based on a number of these statutes and Executive orders, and we discuss First Amendment rights of protestors.

### A. Regulatory Planning and Review

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess the costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits. This rule has not been designated a

“significant regulatory action,” under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866, as amended by Executive Order 14094 (Modernizing Regulatory Review). Accordingly, this rule has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

This regulatory action determination is based on the size, location, duration and time of year of the safety zone. The bridge owner and contractor are coordinating the full waterway closures with the upstream Bergen County Utilities Authority who may transport treated sewage sludge via tug and barge or overland trucks. The safety zone is only in effect on the navigable waters of the Hackensack River between the New Jersey Turnpike/I-95 Fixed Bridge (River Mile 5.3) and 150 feet south of the existing Portal Bridge (River Mile 5.0) and for a limited duration of 14-day periods to accommodate any delays or inclement weather. Further, Skanska Traylor stated that they will reevaluate whether modification of these periods is possible to resume marine traffic and minimize impacts to waterway users. The Coast Guard will notify the public of the enforcement of this rule through appropriate means, which may include, but are not limited to, publication in the Local Notice to Mariners and Broadcast Notice to Mariners via VHF-FM marine channel 16.

#### *B. Impact on Small Entities*

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, 5 U.S.C. 601–612, as amended, requires Federal agencies to consider the potential impact of regulations on small entities during rulemaking. The term “small entities” comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000. The Coast Guard received no comments from the Small Business Administration on this rulemaking. The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

While some owners or operators of vessels intending to transit the area in which the safety zone will be established may be small entities, for the reasons stated in section V.A above, this rule will not have a significant economic impact on any vessel owner or operator.

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104–121), we want to assist small entities in understanding this rule. If the rule would affect your small business,

organization, or governmental jurisdiction and you have questions concerning its provisions or options for compliance, please call or email the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency’s responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1–888–REG–FAIR (1–888–734–3247). The Coast Guard will not retaliate against small entities that question or complain about this rule or any policy or action of the Coast Guard.

#### *C. Collection of Information*

This rule will not call for a new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520).

#### *D. Federalism and Indian Tribal Governments*

A rule has implications for federalism under Executive Order 13132, Federalism, if it has a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the National Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. We have analyzed this rule under that Order and have determined that it is consistent with the fundamental federalism principles and preemption requirements described in Executive Order 13132.

Also, this rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it does not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes.

#### *E. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act*

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538) requires Federal agencies to assess the effects of their discretionary regulatory actions. In particular, the Act addresses actions that may result in the expenditure by a State, local, or tribal government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100,000,000 (adjusted for inflation) or more in any one year. Though this rule

will not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this rule elsewhere in this preamble.

#### *F. Environment*

We have analyzed this rule under Department of Homeland Security Directive 023–01, Rev. 1, associated implementing instructions, and Environmental Planning COMDTINST 5090.1 (series), which guide the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321–4370f), and have determined that this action is one of a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. This rule involves a safety zone from the New Jersey Turnpike/I-95 Fixed Bridge (River Mile 5.3) and 150 feet south of the existing Portal Bridge (River Mile 5.0) on the Hackensack River. It is categorically excluded from further review under paragraph L60(a) of Appendix A, Table 1 of DHS Instruction Manual 023–01–001–01, Rev. 1. A Record of Environmental Consideration supporting this determination is available in the docket. For instructions on locating the docket, see the **ADDRESSES** section of this preamble.

#### *G. Protest Activities*

The Coast Guard respects the First Amendment rights of protesters. Protesters are asked to call or email the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section to coordinate protest activities so that your message can be received without jeopardizing the safety or security of people, places or vessels.

#### **List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165**

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 165 as follows:

#### **PART 165—REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS AREAS**

■ 1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 46 U.S.C. 70034, 70051, 70124; 33 CFR 1.05–1, 6.04–1, 6.04–6, and 160.5; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 00170.1, Revision No. 01.3.

■ 2. Add § 165.T01–0404 to read as follows:

**§ 165.T01–0404 Safety Zone; Hackensack River, Kearny and Secaucus, NJ.**

(a) *Location.* The following area is a safety zone: All the navigable waters of the Hackensack River between the New Jersey Turnpike/I–95 Fixed Bridge (River Mile 5.3) and 150 feet south of the existing Portal Bridge (River Mile 5.0).

(b) *Definitions.* As used in this section, *designated representative* means a Coast Guard Patrol Commander, including a Coast Guard coxswain, petty officer, or other officer operating a Coast Guard vessel and a Federal, State, and local officer designated by or assisting the Captain of the Port New York (COTP) in the enforcement of the safety zone.

(c) *Regulations.* (1) Under the general safety zone regulations in subpart C of this part, you may not enter the safety zone described in paragraph (a) of this section unless authorized by the COTP or the COTP's designated representative.

(2) To seek permission to enter, contact the COTP or the COTP's representative via VHF Channel 16 or by phone at (718) 354–4353 (Sector New York Command Center). Those in the safety zone must comply with all lawful orders or directions given to them by the COTP or the COTP's designated representative.

(d) *Enforcement period.* This section is effective from November 21, 2024, through December 31, 2025, but will only be enforced during periods when heavy lift operations at the new bridge are in progress. The Coast Guard will make notice of this safety zone via the Local Notice to Mariners and issue a Broadcast Notice to Mariners via marine channel 16 (VHF–FM) as soon as practicable. In addition, if the project is completed before December 31, 2025, enforcement of the safety zone will be suspended, and notice given via Local Notice to Mariners.

**Jonathan A. Andrechik,**

*Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port Sector New York.*

[FR Doc. 2024–27429 Filed 11–19–24; 4:15 pm]

**BILLING CODE 9110–04–P**

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**
**40 CFR Part 52**

[EPA–R04–OAR–2023–0220; FRL–10407–02–R4]

**Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Second Period Regional Haze Plan**

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

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is approving the regional haze State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD), dated August 11, 2022 (“Haze Plan” or “2022 Plan”), as satisfying applicable requirements under the Clean Air Act (CAA or Act) and EPA’s Regional Haze Rule (RHR) for the regional haze program’s second planning period. Georgia’s SIP submission addresses the requirement that states must periodically revise their long-term strategies (LTS) for making reasonable progress toward the national goal of preventing any future, and remedying any existing, anthropogenic impairment of visibility, including regional haze, in mandatory Class I Federal areas (hereinafter referred to as “Class I areas”). The SIP submission also addresses other applicable requirements for the second planning period of the regional haze program. EPA is taking this action pursuant to sections 110 and 169A of the Act.

**DATES:** This rule is effective December 23, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket Identification No. EPA–R04–OAR–2023–0220. All documents in the docket are listed on the *regulations.gov* website. Although listed in the index, some information may not be publicly available, *i.e.*, Confidential Business Information (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 either electronically through *www.regulations.gov* or in hard copy at the 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. EPA requests that, if at all possible, you contact the person 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 Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Estelle Bae, Air Permitting Section, Air Planning and Implementation Branch, Air and Radiation Division, Region 4, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta, Georgia

30303–8960. The telephone number is (404) 562–9143. Ms. Bae can also be reached via electronic mail at *bae.estelle@epa.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

On August 11, 2022, GA EPD submitted a revision to its SIP to address regional haze for the second planning period.<sup>1 2</sup> GA EPD made this SIP submission to satisfy the requirements of the CAA’s regional haze program pursuant to CAA sections 169A and 169B and 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 51.308. EPA has determined that the Georgia regional haze SIP submission for the second planning period meets the applicable statutory and regulatory requirements and is thus approving Georgia’s submission into its SIP.

Through a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), published on June 3, 2024 (89 FR 47481), EPA proposed to approve Georgia’s Haze Plan as satisfying the regional haze requirements for the second planning period contained in the CAA and 40 CFR 51.308. EPA described its rationale for proposing approval of the Haze Plan in the June 3, 2024, NPRM. Comments on the June 3, 2024, NPRM were due on or before July 3, 2024. EPA received two sets of comments on the NPRM. One set of comments received is not relevant to this action, and the other set of comments is addressed below. Both sets of comments are available in the docket for this action.

**II. Response to Comments**

In response to the NPRM, EPA received a comment letter signed by the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), Sierra Club, the Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks, and the Southern Environmental Law Center. Collectively, these groups will be referred to as the “Commenters.” In general, the Commenters state in their comment letter that Georgia, in its SIP submittal, and EPA, in its proposed approval of the SIP submittal, failed to

<sup>1</sup> The August 11, 2022, SIP submission, with exception of the supporting modeling files and CBI, is included in the docket for this rulemaking. Due to size and compatibility limitations of the Federal Docket Management System, the supporting modeling files for Georgia’s Regional Haze Plan are instead available at the EPA Region 4 office. To request these files, please contact the person listed in this rulemaking under the section titled **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

<sup>2</sup> On November 1, 2023, Georgia supplemented its August 11, 2022, Haze Plan by submitting the final permits for each of the three sources selected for an emissions control analysis. This supplemental submission, received November 1, 2023, along with GA EPD’s November 17, 2023, clarification email, is included in the docket for this action.