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**Stacy L. Ruble,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2018-27593 Filed 12-20-18; 8:45 am]

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**40 CFR Part 52**

[EPA-R10-OAR-2017-0170; FRL-9988-17-Region 10]

**Air Plan Approval; ID, West Silver Valley PM<sub>2.5</sub> Clean Data Determination**

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

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is finalizing a determination that the West Silver Valley, Idaho nonattainment area has clean data for the 2012 annual fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). This clean data determination (CDD) is based upon quality-assured, quality-controlled, and certified ambient air monitoring data showing the area has attained the 2012 PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS based on the 2015-2017 data available in the EPA’s Air Quality System (AQS) database. The EPA also is

taking final agency action on the September 2017 wildfire exceptional event at the Pinehurst monitoring station as having affected PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> values. Based on this clean data determination, the EPA determines that the obligation for Idaho to make submissions to meet certain Clean Air Act (CAA or the Act) requirements related to attainment of the NAAQS for this area is suspended for as long as the area continues to attain the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS. Additionally, the sanctions and Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) clocks triggered by the March 26, 2018 Finding of Failure to Submit action will be suspended. No adverse comments were received on this action.

**DATES:** This action is effective on January 22, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** The EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket ID No. EPA-R10-OAR-2017-0170. 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, e.g., Confidential Business Information or other information the disclosure of which 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 through <https://www.regulations.gov>, or please contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section for additional availability information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Justin Spenillo at (206) 553-6125, or [spenillo.justin@epa.gov](mailto:spenillo.justin@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Throughout this document whenever “we,” “us,” or “our” is used, it is intended to refer to the EPA.

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**I. Background**

On December 14, 2012, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revised the level of the primary annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard, lowering the level from 15.0 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) to 12.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Effective April 15, 2015, the EPA made designation determinations for the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS.<sup>1</sup> In that action, EPA designated the West Silver Valley area in Shoshone County, Idaho (WSV NAA) as moderate nonattainment for the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS. See 40 CFR 81.313.

On March 26, 2018, the EPA issued a finding of failure to submit under section 110(k) of the CAA finding that several states, including Idaho, failed to submit specific moderate area SIP elements for the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS required under subpart 4 of part D of Title I of the CAA.<sup>2</sup> In particular, Idaho failed to submit the following specific moderate area SIP elements for the WSV NAA: An attainment demonstration; control strategies, including reasonably available control measures (“RACM”) and reasonably available control technologies (“RACT”); a reasonable further progress (RFP) plan; quantitative milestones; and contingency measures. This finding triggered the sanctions clock under Section 179 of the CAA, as well as an obligation under Section 110(c) of the CAA for EPA to promulgate a FIP no later than 2 years from the effective date of the finding.

On October 22, 2018 (83 FR 53201), the EPA proposed to determine, based on the most recent 3 years (2015-2017) of valid data, that the WSV NAA has attained the 2012 PM<sub>2.5</sub> annual NAAQS. The EPA also proposed to take final agency action on the September 2017 wildfire exceptional event at the Pinehurst monitoring station as having affected PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> values on September 4 through September 8, 2017 as described in Table 1.

**TABLE 1—24-HR PM<sub>2.5</sub> AND PM<sub>10</sub> VALUES AT THE PINEHURST MONITORING STATION THAT MEET THE EPA EXCEPTIONAL EVENT CRITERIA**

Date	24-hr PM <sub>2.5</sub> Concentration (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) 16-079-0017 POC1	24-hr PM <sub>10</sub> Concentration (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) 16-079-0017 POC3
9/4/2017 .....	144.9	.....
9/5/2017 .....	222.2	.....
9/6/2017 .....	147.1	169.6
9/7/2017 .....	123.8	149.8
9/8/2017 .....	116.7	143.7

<sup>1</sup> 80 FR 2206.

<sup>2</sup> 83 FR 14759.

Based on the clean data determination (CDD), the EPA also proposed to determine that the obligation to submit the attainment planning elements for the PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS are not applicable so long as the area continues to attain the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS. Additional detail can be found in the October 22, 2018, proposed action (83 FR 53201). Finally, the action proposed to suspend the sanctions and FIP clocks triggered by the March 26, 2018, Finding of Failure to Submit action.

## II. Response to Comments

The comment period for the proposed action closed on November 21, 2018. The EPA received seven supportive comments regarding this action. The EPA received no adverse comments. All comments can be found in the docket for this action.

## III. Final Action

The EPA is finalizing this action as proposed. Pursuant to 40 CFR 51.1015(a), the EPA determines that based on 3-years of certified, valid monitoring data between 2015 and 2017, the WSV NAA has attained the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS. Pursuant to 50 CFR 50.14, the EPA is also taking final action excluding the 2017 24-hr PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> values listed in Table 1, above, at the Pinehurst monitoring station because those NAAQS exceedances were caused by a wildfire exceptional event. Pursuant to 40 CFR 51.1015(a), and based upon our determination that the WSV NAA has attained the standard, the EPA determines that the obligation to submit any attainment-related SIP revisions arising from classification of the WSV NAA as a moderate nonattainment area under subpart 4 of part D, of title I of the Act for the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS is not applicable for so long as the area continues to attain the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS. In particular, the obligation for Idaho to submit attainment demonstrations, projected emissions inventories, RACM (including RACT), RFP plans, motor vehicle emissions budgets, quantitative milestones, and contingency measures for the WSV NAA are suspended until such time as: (1) The area is redesignated to attainment, after which such requirements are permanently discharged; or (2) the EPA determines that the area has re-violated the PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS, at which time the state shall submit such attainment plan elements for the Moderate nonattainment area by a future date to be determined by the EPA and announced through publication in the **Federal Register** at

the time the EPA determines the area is violating the PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS.

Although the obligation has been suspended, this action does not preclude Idaho from submitting, nor the EPA from acting on the suspended attainment plan elements. As a result of this final action, the sanctions and FIP clocks triggered by the EPA's March 26, 2018, Finding of Failure to Submit are suspended. *See* 83 FR 14759.

Today's final action does not constitute a redesignation of the WSV NAA to attainment for the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS under CAA section 107(d)(3) because we have not yet approved a maintenance plan for WSV NAA as meeting the requirements of section 175A of the CAA or determined that the area has met the other CAA requirements for redesignation. The classification and designation status in 40 CFR part 81 remains Moderate nonattainment for this area until such time as the EPA determines that Idaho has met the CAA requirements for redesignation to attainment for the WSV NAA.

## IV. Statutory and Executive Orders Review

This action finalizes a determination of attainment based on air quality and suspends certain federal requirements, and thus will not impose additional requirements beyond those imposed by state law. For this reason, this final 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);
- Is not expected to be an Executive Order 13771 (82 FR 9339, February 2, 2017) regulatory action because this action is not significant under Executive Order 12866;
- 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 the 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 the 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. The 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 CAA, petitions for judicial review of this action must be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the appropriate circuit by February 19, 2019. 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, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Nitrogen dioxide, Particulate matter, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Sulfur oxides, Volatile organic compounds.

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

Dated: December 4, 2018.

**Michelle L. Pirzadeh,**

*Acting Regional Administrator, Region 10.*

[FR Doc. 2018-27607 Filed 12-20-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

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

[EPA-RO5-OAR-2018-0302; EPA-RO5-OAR-2018-0303; EPA-RO5-OAR-2018-0589; FRL-9988-04-Region 5]

**Air Plan Approval; Illinois; NAAQS and VOC Updates**

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

**ACTION:** Direct final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is approving revised rules submitted by the State of Illinois as State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions. The submitted rules update Illinois definitions and requirements for handling monitoring data influenced by exceptional events, update implementation rules for the 2012 primary annual National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), and update designated reference and equivalent methods for multiple NAAQS. In addition, the submitted rules amend the Illinois Administrative Code (IAC) by updating the definition of volatile organic compounds (VOC).

**DATES:** This direct final rule will be effective February 19, 2019, unless EPA receives adverse comments by January 22, 2019. If adverse comments are received, EPA will publish a timely withdrawal of the direct final rule in the *Federal Register* informing the public that the rule will not take effect.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-RO5-OAR-2018-0302, EPA-RO5-OAR-2018-0303, or EPA-RO5-OAR-2018-0589 at <http://www.regulations.gov>, or via email to [aburano.douglas@epa.gov](mailto:aburano.douglas@epa.gov). For comments submitted at [Regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from [Regulations.gov](http://www.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:** Samantha Panock, Physical Scientist, Attainment Planning and Maintenance Section, Air Programs Branch (AR-18J), Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, (312) 353-8973, [panock.samantha@epa.gov](mailto:panock.samantha@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Throughout this document whenever “we,” “us,” or “our” is used, we mean EPA. This supplementary information section is arranged as follows:

- I. Background
- II. What are the State rule revisions?
- III. Did the State hold public hearings for these submittals?
- IV. What is EPA’s analysis of the State’s submittals?
- V. What action is EPA taking?
- VI. Incorporation by Reference
- VII. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

**I. Background**

Section 109 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) requires EPA to establish national primary (protective of human health) and secondary (protective of human welfare) air quality standards for pollutants for which air quality criteria have been issued under section 108 of the CAA (the criteria pollutants<sup>1</sup>). Individually and collectively these

<sup>1</sup> The criteria pollutants are ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), nitrogen oxides (represented by nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)), sulfur oxides (represented by sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)), carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter (represented by total suspended particulates (TSP), particulates (PM<sub>10</sub>), and fine particulates (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)), and lead (Pb). Note that Illinois also has air quality standard and monitoring rules for “coarse particulate matter” (PM<sub>2.5-10</sub>), although this is not a criteria pollutant and is generally considered to be included in PM<sub>10</sub>.

standards are referred to as NAAQS. Section 109(d)(1) of the CAA requires EPA to review, and if necessary, based on accumulated health and welfare data, to revise each NAAQS every five years. If a NAAQS is revised, states whose rules include state air quality standards may revise their rules to address the revised NAAQS and associated monitoring requirements, and submit them to EPA as SIP revision requests. *See, e.g.*, 415 ILCS 5/10(H). Moreover, section 10(H) of the ILCS requires that Illinois adopt ambient air quality standards that are identical-in-substance to the Federal NAAQS using identical-in-substance rulemaking procedure (415 ILCS 5/10(H)(2016)).

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) submitted revisions on ambient air quality standards in the Illinois SIP to EPA for approval on April 2, 2018 and July 26, 2018. Specifically, these SIP revisions update: (1) Illinois ambient air quality definitions and requirements for handling monitoring data influenced by exceptional events, (2) implementation rules for the 2012 primary annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS, and (3) designated reference and equivalent methods for multiple NAAQS. These updates correspond to EPA’s rulemakings related to NAAQS that occurred between July 1, 2016 and December 31, 2017.

IEPA also submitted a revision to the definitions for VOC in the Illinois SIP to EPA for approval on April 2, 2018. The change included the addition of 1,1,2,2-Tetrafluoro-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy) ethane to the list of chemical species excluded from the Federal definition of VOC. This update corresponds to EPA’s rulemaking related to VOC regulations adopted August 1, 2016.

**II. What are the State rule revisions?****35 IAC 243.101 Definitions**

Illinois amended 35 IAC 243.101 to add and revise definitions regarding the exceptional events rule. These definitions were adopted by EPA in “Treatment of Data Influenced by Exceptional Events” (81 FR 68216, October 3, 2016).

**35 IAC 243.105 Air Quality Monitoring Data Influenced by Exceptional Events**

Illinois amended 35 IAC 243.105 to update procedural requirements, requirements for air agency demonstrations, criteria for EPA’s approval of the exclusion of event influenced air quality data, and requirements for air agencies to take appropriate and reasonable actions to protect public health from exceedances or violations of the NAAQS.