

Commission Meeting Room of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. The conference is open to all interested persons.

Staff is convening the conference to discuss: the phasing plan and schedule for implementing electronic filings; the proposed policies and procedures for electronic filing; the changes to the Commission's regulations that will be required to accommodate electronic filing; a prototype for submitting certain electronic filings to the Commission; the profile of capabilities that the Commission plans to pilot by October 1, 1999; and other electronic filing-related issues of concern to those in attendance.

The main conference discussion topics are attached to this notice. To facilitate discussion, Staff will post proposed electronic filing policies and procedures, and information on the other topics to be discussed, on the Commission's website ([www.ferc.fed.us](http://www.ferc.fed.us)) in advance of the conference. Staff will publish a subsequent notice when the information is available. These proposals are based in part on comments received in response to a request for comments issued in Docket No. PL98-1-000 on May 13, 1998.<sup>1</sup>

We urge persons planning to attend the conference to review the materials in advance and be prepared to discuss them at the conference.

In order that we can develop a mailing list and contact persons interested in prototype testing, please contact Brooks Carter via e-mail ([brooks.carter@ferc.fed.us](mailto:brooks.carter@ferc.fed.us)), FAX (202-208-2425) or telephone (202-501-8145) and provide: your name, title, company, mailing address, the industry or industries you work with (natural gas, oil, electric, or hydropower), voice and FAX numbers, and your Internet e-mail address if you have one.

Although this is an informal technical conference, a court reporter will transcribe the proceedings and make a transcript available for interested parties.

The Capitol Connection offers all Open and special FERC meetings *live* over the Internet as well as via telephone and satellite. For a reasonable fee, you can receive these meetings in your office, at home or anywhere in the world. To find out more about The Capitol Connection's live Internet,

phone bridge or satellite coverage, contact David Reininger or Julia Morelli at (703) 993-3100 or visit Capitol Connection's website at ([www.capitolconnection.gmu.edu](http://www.capitolconnection.gmu.edu)). The Capitol Connection also offers FERC Open Meetings through its Washington, D.C. area television service.

In addition, National Narrowcast Network's Hearing-On-The-Line service covers all FERC meetings live by telephone so that interested persons can listen at their desks, from their homes, or from any phone, without special equipment. Billing is based on time on-line. Call 202-966-2211.

Anyone interested in purchasing videotapes of the meeting should call VISCOM at (703-715-7999).

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**  
*Acting Secretary.*

#### **Topics for Discussions at Electronic Filing Technical Conference June 24, 1999**

Current Process for Electronic Filing Rulemaking Comments via e-mail

- Filing and processing issues
- Posting of comments

Description of "FERC Doorway": Discussion

- Conceptual Diagram
- Proposed Phases for Electronic Filing Implementation
- Profile of Interventions, Comments, and Protests to be Included in the October, 1999 pilot (Phase I)
- Y2K Docket Number format

Proposed Policies and Procedures (by Function)

Submit Function:

1. Filing Formats
2. Use of Interactive Forms for simple motions
3. Signature, User ID/Password, Certificate of Service
4. Citation rules to ensure consistent citation to submitted documents
5. Joint and Several Motions to Intervene
6. File retraction or correction

Receive Function:

1. Date/Time of Receipt and Filing Date
2. Session and File Control numbers
3. Docketing and Docket No. Validation
4. Acknowledgment of Receipt
5. System availability/delays

Inspect Function:

1. Virus scan
2. Check for completeness and file integrity

Return Function (if filing is not accepted):

1. Notification with reason (e.g., virus,

corruption)

2. Resubmission procedures /Impact on Filing Date

Document Management Function:

1. File Conversion Issues
2. Load Databases (Service List, Docket Sheet, RIMS Index, Daily Filings List, CIPS)

Prototype: Screens for Phase 1 Filings (Motions to Intervene, Comments, and Protests)

[FR Doc. 99-13898 Filed 6-1-99; 8:45 am]

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

### **40 CFR Part 52**

[RI-39-6989b; A-1-FRL-6346-4]

#### **Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Rhode Island; Amendments to Air Pollution Control Regulation Number 9**

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** EPA is proposing to approve a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the State of Rhode Island. This revision amends Rhode Island's Air Pollution Control Regulation No. 9, "Air Pollution Control Permits" which govern pre-construction permitting for new and modified sources of air pollution. In the Final Rules section of this **Federal Register**, EPA is approving the State's SIP revision as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial revision and anticipates no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no relevant adverse comments are received in response to this proposed rule, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this proposed rule. If EPA receives relevant adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. EPA will not institute a second comment period on this proposal. Any parties interested in commenting on this proposal should do so at this time.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before July 2, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be mailed to Susan Studlien, Deputy Director, Office of Ecosystem Protection, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,

<sup>1</sup> The comments are available on the Commission's website through the Records and Information Management System (RIMS) link. A summary of the comments and additional materials from conference on electronic filing held on October 22, 1998, are also available on the Commission's website via the "Rulemaking Comments" link on the main page.

Region I, One Congress Street, Suite 1100 (CAA), Boston, MA 02114-2023. Region I's technical support documents are available for public inspection during normal business hours, by appointment at the Office of Ecosystem Protection, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I, One Congress Street, 11th floor, Boston, MA and Division of Air and Hazardous Materials, Department of Environmental Management, 291 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ian D. Cohen, (617) 918-1655.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** For additional information, see the direct final rule which is located in the Rules section of this **Federal Register**.

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

Dated: May 6, 1999.

**John P. DeVillars,**

*Regional Administrator, Region I.*

[FR Doc. 99-13029 Filed 6-1-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### 40 CFR Part 52

[MA-67-7202b; A-1-FRL-6346-7]

#### Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Massachusetts and Rhode Island; Nitrogen Oxides Budget and Allowance Trading Program

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The EPA is proposing to approve State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions submitted by the States of Rhode Island (RI) and Massachusetts (MA). The revisions consists of adding a regulation entitled, "Nitrogen Oxides Allowance Program," and a consent agreement to the RI SIP and a regulation entitled, "NO<sub>x</sub> Allowance Program," to the MA SIP. The consent agreement in Rhode Island establishes alternative NO<sub>x</sub> reasonably available control technology (RACT) requirements for four boilers. The RI and MA regulations are part of a regional nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions cap and allowance trading program designed to reduce stationary source NO<sub>x</sub> emissions during the ozone season in the Ozone Transport Region (OTR) of the northeastern United States. These SIP revisions were submitted pursuant to section 110 of the Clean Air Act (CAA).

In the Final Rules section of this **Federal Register**, EPA is approving the

States' SIP submittals as direct final rules without prior proposal because the Agency views these as noncontroversial revisions and anticipates no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no adverse comments are received in response to these actions, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this proposed rule. If EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. EPA will not institute a second comment period. Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before July 2, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be mailed to Susan Studlien, Deputy Director, Office of Ecosystem Protection (mail code CAA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I, One Congress Street, Suite 1100, Boston, MA 02114-2023. Copies of the State submittals and EPA's technical support documents are available for public inspection during normal business hours, by appointment at the Office of Ecosystem Protection, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I, One Congress Street, 11th floor, Boston, MA, at the Division of Air and Hazardous Materials, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, 291 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767, and at the Massachusetts Division of Air Quality Control, Department of Environmental Protection, One Winter Street, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02108.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steven Rapp, (617) 918-1048 or at Rapp.Steve@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** For additional information, see the direct final rule which is located in the Rules section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: May 6, 1999.

**John P. DeVillars,**

*Regional Administrator, Region I.*

[FR Doc. 99-13027 Filed 6-1-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

#### 49 CFR Part 571

[Docket No. NHTSA-99-5737]

#### Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Denial of petition for rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** In this document, we deny a petition for rulemaking submitted by Marie E. Birnbaum, a private individual. The petitioner asked us to initiate rulemaking to require passenger cars and light trucks to be equipped with "black boxes" (data recorders) analogous to those found on commercial airliners. We agree with the petitioner that the recording of crash data can provide information that is very valuable in understanding crashes, and which can be used in a variety of ways to improve motor vehicle safety. However, we are denying the petition because the motor vehicle industry is already voluntarily moving in the direction recommended by the petitioner. Further, we believe this area presents some issues that are, at least for the present time, best addressed in a non-regulatory context.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

*For non-legal issues:* Mr. Clarke Harper, Chief, Light Duty Vehicle Division, NPS-11, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-2264. Fax: (202) 366-4329.

*For legal issues:* J. Edward Glancy, Office of Chief Counsel, NCC-20, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-2992. Fax: (202) 366-3820.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We received a petition for rulemaking from Marie E. Birnbaum, a private individual, asking us to initiate rulemaking to require passenger cars and light trucks to be equipped with "black boxes" (data recorders) analogous to those found on commercial airliners. The petitioner stated that the purpose of the devices would be to record speed and possibly other data in order to (1) improve public safety by encouraging responsible driving, and (2) provide records of pre-crash speed and possibly other information. Ms. Birnbaum stated that this pre-crash information would work to improve driver accountability