

PART 142—ENTRY PROCESS

1. The authority citation for part 142 would continue to read as follows:

Authority: 19 U.S.C. 66, 1448, 1484, 1624.

2. It is proposed to amend § 142.2 by revising paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§ 142.2 Time for filing entry.

(a) *General rule: After arrival of merchandise.* Merchandise for which entry is required will be entered within 15 calendar days after landing from a vessel, aircraft or vehicle, or after arrival at the port of destination in the case of merchandise transported in bond.

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Approved: May 19, 2000.

Raymond W. Kelly,

Commissioner of Customs.

Dennis M. O'Connell,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

[FR Doc. 00-17639 Filed 7-11-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Internal Revenue Service****26 CFR Part 1**

[REG-103115-00]

RIN 1545-AX90

Bad Debt Reserves of Thrift Institutions

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Withdrawal of proposed regulations.

SUMMARY: This document withdraws proposed regulations amending the income tax regulations. This action is taken to remove from the IRS' inventory of regulations projects certain proposed regulations that will not be published in final form because under a subsequent amendment the underlying statute does not apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1995.

DATES: These proposed regulations are withdrawn July 12, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Craig Wojay, of the Office of Assistant Chief Counsel, Financial Institutions and Products, Internal Revenue Service, 1111 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20224. Telephone (202) 622-3920, (not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

This document withdraws certain proposed regulations previously

published in the **Federal Register** by the IRS. These proposed regulations, §§ 1.593-12, 1.593-13, and 1.593-14, are being withdrawn because under a subsequent amendment the underlying statute, section 593, does not apply to subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1995.

Drafting Information

The principal author of this withdrawal notice is Craig Wojay, Office of the Assistant Chief Counsel (Financial Institutions and Products) within the Office of the Chief Counsel, IRS. However, other personnel from the IRS and the Treasury Department participated in developing the withdrawal notice.

List of Subjects in 26 CFR Part 1

Income taxes, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Withdrawal of Proposed Amendments to the Regulations

Accordingly, under the authority of 26 U.S.C. 7805, the proposed rulemaking that was published in the **Federal Register** on Monday, January 13, 1992 (57 FR 1232) is withdrawn.

Robert Wenzel,

Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

[FR Doc. 00-17643 Filed 7-11-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**40 CFR Part 52**

[CT059-7218b, FRL-6731-5]

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Connecticut; Nitrogen Oxides Budget and Allowance Trading Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: In September 1999, the State of Connecticut (CT) submitted a State Implementation Plan (SIP) to reduce air emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x). The submittal responds to the EPA's regulation entitled, "Finding of Significant Contribution and Rulemaking for Certain States in the Ozone Transport Assessment Group Region for Purposes of Reducing Regional Transport of Ozone," otherwise known as the "NO_x SIP Call." The submittal includes a narrative and a regulation that establish a statewide NO_x budget and a NO_x allowance

trading program for large electricity generating and industrial sources beginning in 2003.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing approval of the CT's September 1999 SIP submittal including, CT's NO_x control regulation, section 22a-174-22b, "Post-2002 Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) Budget Program" and CT's SIP narrative, "Connecticut State Implementation Plan Revision to Implement the NO_x SIP Call," dated September 30, 1999. EPA is proposing to approve Connecticut's submittal for its strengthening effect pursuant to section 110 of the Clean Air Act (CAA).

DATES: EPA must receive written comments on or before August 11, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to David Conroy, Unit Manager, Air Quality Planning, Office of Ecosystem Protection (mail code CAQ), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I, One Congress Street, Suite 1100, Boston, MA 02114-2023. Copies of the documents relevant to this action are available for public inspection during normal business hours, by appointment at the Office Ecosystem Protection, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I, One Congress Street, 11th floor, Boston, MA 02114, and at the Bureau of Air Management, Department of Environmental Protection, State Office Building, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-1630.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Overview**

On September 30, 1999, CT submitted a package of regulatory and narrative materials in order to comply with the NO_x SIP Call and strengthen its ozone SIP. EPA proposes full approval of CT's submittal.

The following table of contents describes the format for this

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. EPA's Action**

A. What action is EPA proposing today?

B. Why is EPA proposing this action?

C. What are the general NO_x SIP Call requirements?

D. What is EPA's NO_x budget and allowance trading program?

E. What is the Compliance Supplement Pool?

F. What guidance did EPA use to evaluate Connecticut's submittal?

II. Connecticut's NO_x Budget Program

A. What is Connecticut's NO_x SIP Call submittal?

B. When did Connecticut propose and adopt the program?

- C. When did Connecticut submit the SIP revision to EPA and when did EPA find it technically and administratively complete?
- D. What is Connecticut's NO_x Budget Trading Program?
- E. How will Connecticut and EPA enforce the program?
- F. How does Connecticut's program protect the environment?
- G. What is the result of EPA's evaluation of Connecticut's program?
- H. Why is EPA considering the NO_x SIP Call submittals from CT, MA, and RI at the same time?
- I. What other significant items relate to Connecticut's program?
- J. What issues are associated with the Connecticut NO_x SIP Call submittal?

III. Proposed Action

IV. Administrative Requirements

In the following questions and answers, the term "you" refers to the reader of the notice and "we" refers to the EPA.

I. EPA's Action

A. What Action Is EPA Proposing Today?

EPA is proposing approval of CT's SIP submittal, including CT's NO_x control regulation, section 22a-174-22b, "Post-2002 Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) Budget Program" and the SIP narrative entitled, "Connecticut State Implementation Plan Revision to Implement the NO_x SIP Call," dated September 30, 1999. CT submitted the adopted section 22a-174-22b and the SIP narrative with a request to revise the SIP on September 30, 1999. CT submitted the regulation and narrative in order to strengthen its one-hour ozone SIP and to comply with the NO_x SIP Call in each ozone season, i.e., May 1 to October 1, beginning in 2003. EPA finds that CT's submittal is fully approvable as a SIP strengthening measure for Connecticut's one-hour ground level ozone SIP and it meets the air quality objective of the NO_x SIP Call requirements that EPA has published to date. EPA will take action in a separate future rulemaking on whether Connecticut's submittal meets the applicable NO_x SIP Call requirements themselves.

B. Why Is EPA Proposing This Action?

EPA is proposing this action in order to:

- Fulfill CT's and EPA's requirements under the Clean Air Act (the Act);
- Make CT's control regulation federally-enforceable and available for credit in the SIP;
- Make CT's SIP narrative, including the ozone season NO_x budget, federally enforceable as part of the CT SIP; and
- Give you the opportunity to submit written comments on EPA's proposed

actions, as discussed in the **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** sections.

C. What Are the General NO_x SIP Call Requirements?

On October 27, 1998, EPA published a final rule entitled, "Finding of Significant Contribution and Rulemaking for Certain States in the Ozone Transport Assessment Group Region for Purposes of Reducing Regional Transport of Ozone," otherwise known as the "NO_x SIP Call." See 63 FR 57356. The NO_x SIP Call requires 22 States and the District of Columbia¹ to meet statewide NO_x emission budgets during the five month period between May 1 and October 1 in order to reduce the amount of ground level ozone that is transported across the eastern United States. The NO_x SIP Call set out a schedule that required the affected states to adopt regulations by September 30, 1999,² and implement control strategies by May 1, 2003.

The NO_x SIP Call allowed states the flexibility to decide which source categories to regulate in order to meet the statewide budgets. But, the SIP Call notice suggested that imposing statewide NO_x emissions caps on large fossil-fuel fired industrial boilers and electricity generating units would provide a highly cost effective means for States to meet their NO_x budgets. In fact, the state-specific budgets were set assuming an emission rate of 0.15 pounds NO_x per million British thermal units (lb. NO_x/mmBtu) at EGUs, multiplied by the projected heat input (mmBtu) from burning the quantity of fuel needed to meet the 2007 forecast for electricity demand. See 63 FR 57407. The calculation of the 2007 EGU emissions assumed that an emissions trading program would be part of an

¹ Alabama, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.

² On May 25, 1999, the D.C. Circuit issued a partial stay of the submission of the SIP revisions required under the NO_x SIP Call. The NO_x SIP Call had required submission of the SIP revisions by September 30, 1999. State Petitioners challenging the NO_x SIP Call moved to stay the submission schedule until April 27, 2000. The D.C. Circuit issued a stay of the SIP submission deadline pending further order of the court. *Michigan v. EPA*, No. 98-1497 (D.C. Cir. May 25, 1999) (order granting stay in part).

On September 30, 1999, Connecticut voluntarily submitted this revision to EPA for approval notwithstanding the court's stay of the SIP submission deadline. On March 3, 2000, the D.C. Circuit ruled on *Michigan v. EPA*, affirming many aspects of the SIP call and remanding certain other portions to the Agency. The court's ruling does not affect this action because it is being proposed as a SIP-strengthening measure regardless of the status of the case.

EGU control program. The NO_x SIP Call state budgets also assumed on average a 30% NO_x reduction from cement kilns, a 60% reduction from industrial boilers and combustion turbines, and a 90% reduction from internal combustion engines. The non-EGU control assumptions were applied at units where the heat input capacities were greater than 250 mmBtu per hour, or in cases where heat input data were not available or appropriate, at units with actual emissions greater than one ton per day.

To assist the states in their efforts to meet the SIP Call, the NO_x SIP Call final rulemaking notice included a model NO_x allowance trading regulation, called "NO_x Budget Trading Program for State Implementation Plans," (40 CFR Part 96), that could be used by states to develop their regulations. The NO_x SIP Call notice explained that if states developed an allowance trading regulation consistent with the EPA model rule, they could participate in a regional allowance trading program that would be administered by the EPA. See 63 FR 57458-57459.

D. What Is EPA's NO_x Budget and Allowance Trading Program?

EPA's model NO_x budget and allowance trading rule for SIPs, 40 CFR Part 96, sets forth a NO_x emissions trading program for large electric generating units (EGUs) and non-electric generating units (non-EGUs). A state can voluntarily choose to adopt EPA's model rule in order to allow sources within its borders to participate in regional allowance trading. The October 27, 1998 **Federal Register** notice contains a full description of the EPA's model NO_x budget trading program. See 63 FR 57514-57538 and 40 CFR Part 96.

In general, air emissions trading uses market forces to reduce the overall cost of compliance for pollution sources, such as power plants, while maintaining emission reductions and environmental benefits. One type of market-based program is an emissions budget and allowance trading program, commonly referred to as a "cap and trade" program.

In an emissions budget and allowance trading program, the state or EPA sets a regulatory limit, or emissions budget, in mass emissions from a specific group of sources. The budget limits the total number of allocated allowances during a particular control period. When the budget is set at a level lower than the current emissions, the effect is to reduce the total amount of emissions during the control period. After setting the budget, the state or EPA then assigns, or allocates, allowances to the

participating entities up to the level of the budget. Each allowance authorizes the emission of a quantity of pollutant, e.g., one ton of airborne NO_x.

At the end of the control period, each source must demonstrate that its actual emissions during the control period were less than or equal to the number of available allowances it holds. Sources that reduce their emissions below their allocated allowance level may sell their extra allowances. Sources that emit more than the amount of their allocated allowance level may buy allowances from the sources with extra reductions. In this way, the budget is met in the most cost-effective manner. An example of a budget and allowance trading program is EPA's Acid Rain Program for reducing sulfur dioxide emissions.

E. What Is the Compliance Supplement Pool?

To provide additional flexibility for complying with emission control requirements associated with the NO_x SIP Call, the final NO_x SIP Call provided each affected state with a "compliance supplement pool." The compliance supplement pool is a quantity of NO_x allowances that may be used to cover excess emissions from sources that are unable to meet control requirements during the 2003 and 2004 ozone seasons. Allowances from the compliance supplement pool will not be valid for compliance past the 2004 ozone season. Despite disagreeing with commenters' concerns, the NO_x SIP Call included these voluntary provisions to address commenters' concerns about the possible adverse effect that the control requirements might have on the reliability of the electricity supply or on other industries required to install controls as the result of a state's response to the SIP Call.

A state may issue some or all of the compliance supplement pool via two mechanisms. First, a state may issue some or all of the pool to sources with credits from implementing NO_x reductions beyond all applicable requirements after September 30, 1999 but before May 1, 2003 (*i.e.*, early reductions). In this way, sources that

cannot install controls prior to May 1, 2003, can purchase other sources' early reduction credits in order to comply. Second, a state may issue some or all of the pool to sources that demonstrate a need for an extension of the May 1, 2003 compliance deadline due to undue risk to the electricity or other industrial sectors and where early reductions are not available. See 40 CFR 51.121(e)(3).

F. What Guidance Did EPA Use To Evaluate Connecticut's submittal?

EPA evaluated CT's NO_x SIP Call submittal using EPA's "NO_x SIP Call Checklist," (the checklist), issued on April 9, 1999. The checklist reflects and follows the requirements of the NO_x SIP Call set forth in 40 CFR 51.121 and 51.122. The checklist outlines the criteria that the EPA Regional Office used to determine the completeness and approvability of CT's submittal.

As noted in the checklist, the key elements of an approvable submittal under the NO_x SIP Call are: a budget demonstration; enforceable measures for control; legal authority to implement and enforce the control measures; compliance dates and schedules; monitoring, recordkeeping, and emissions reporting; as well as elements that apply to states that choose to adopt an emissions trading rule in response to the NO_x SIP Call. The checklist is available to the public on EPA's website at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/otag/sip/related.html>.

As described above, the final NO_x SIP Call rule included a model NO_x budget trading program regulation. See 40 CFR Part 96. EPA used the model rule to evaluate section 22a-174-22b. Additionally, EPA used the October 1998 final NO_x SIP Call rulemaking notice, as well as the subsequent technical amendments to the NO_x SIP Call, published in May 1999 (64 FR 26298) and March 2000 (65 FR 11222), to evaluate the approvability of CT's submittal. EPA also used § 110 of the CAA, Implementation Plans, to evaluate the approvability of CT's submittal as a revision to the SIP.

II. Connecticut's NO_x Budget Program

A. What is Connecticut's NO_x SIP Call Submittal?

Connecticut's September 30, 1999, SIP submittal included the following:

- Adopted control regulations which require emission reductions beginning in 2003, *i.e.*, section 22a-174-22b, "Post-2002 Nitrogen Oxides NO_x Budget Program;"
- A description of how the state intends to use the compliance supplement pool, *i.e.*, as part of the control regulation;
- A baseline inventory of NO_x mass emissions from EGUs, non-EGUs, area, highway and non-road mobile sources in the year 2007 as published in the May 14, 1999, technical amendments to the NO_x SIP Call, *i.e.*, as part of the SIP narrative;
- A 2007 projected inventory (budget) reflecting NO_x reductions achieved by the state control measures contained in the submittal, *i.e.*, as part of the SIP narrative; and
- A commitment to meet the annual, triennial, and 2007 reporting requirements, *i.e.*, as part of the SIP narrative.

As described above, in order to reduce NO_x emissions statewide from 2003 and beyond, CT adopted section 22a-174-22b. The regulation applies to all EGUs with nameplate electricity generating capacities greater than 15 megawatts that sell any amount of electricity as well as any non-EGU units that have a heat input capacity equal to or greater than 250 mmBtu per hour. Regarding other non-EGUs, CT has no cement kilns or internal combustion (IC) engines with emissions large enough to exceed the applicability threshold for assumed control requirements, *i.e.*, one ton per day. So, CT's SIP submittal does not assume any additional reductions from those sources. Furthermore, you should note that CT is not relying on any reductions beyond anticipated federal measures in the mobile and area sectors.

Below is a table of the 2007 baseline and budget emission levels that Connecticut has submitted with as part of its SIP narrative.

Source category	2007 Baseline NO _x emissions (tons/season)	2007 NO _x budget emissions (tons/season)	Projected reductions (tons/season)
EGUs	5,636	4,564	1,072
Non-EGU Point	5,124	4,970	154
Area Sources	4,821	4,821	0
Non-Road Mobile	10,736	10,736	0
Highway Mobile	19,902	19,902	0
CT Total	46,219	44,993	1,226

B. When Did Connecticut Propose and Adopt the Program?

On July 12, 1999, CT published a public notice to announce the availability of the proposed section 22a-174-22b, as well as the SIP narrative that included the statewide 2007 NO_x emission budget. The public notice opened a 30 day public comment period. A public hearing was held on the proposed regulation and SIP package on August 12, 1999. After modifying the proposal in response to public comment, on September 29, 1999, the final section 22a-174-22b was filed with the Secretary of State. The regulation became effective on that date.

C. When Did Connecticut Submit the SIP Revision to EPA and When Did EPA Find the Submittal Technically and Administratively Complete?

On September 30, 1999, CT DEP submitted section 22a-174-22b and the SIP narrative to EPA with a request to revise the CT SIP. On October 26, 1999, EPA sent a letter to CT deeming the SIP submittal technically and administratively complete.

D. What Is Connecticut's NO_x Budget Trading Program?

In response to the NO_x SIP Call, CT adopted section 22a-174-22b, "Post-2002 Nitrogen Oxides NO_x Budget Program." With section 22a-174-22b, CT established a NO_x cap and allowance trading program for the ozone seasons of 2003 and beyond. CT developed the regulation in order to reduce NO_x emissions and allow its sources to participate in the kind of interstate NO_x allowance trading program described in § 51.121(b)(2).

Under section 22a-174-22b Connecticut allocates NO_x allowances to its EGUs and large industrial units. Each NO_x allowance permits a source to emit one ton of NO_x during the seasonal control period. NO_x allowances may be bought or sold. Unused NO_x allowances may also be banked for future use, with certain limitations. For each ton of NO_x emitted in a control period, EPA will remove one allowance from the source's NO_x Allowance Tracking System (NATS) account. Once the allowance has been retired in this way, no one can ever use the allowance again.

Source owners will monitor their NO_x emissions by using systems that meet the requirements of 40 CFR Part 75, subpart H, and report resulting data to EPA electronically. Each budget source complies with the program by demonstrating at the end of each control period that actual emissions do not exceed the amount of allowances held

for that period. However, regardless of the number of allowances a source holds, it cannot emit at levels that would violate other federal or state limits, for example, reasonably available control technology (RACT), new source performance standards, or Title IV (the federal Acid Rain program).

Section 22a-174-22b differs from EPA's NO_x model budget trading rule in two significant ways. Specifically, section 22a-174-22b is applicable to smaller electric generating sources than the model rule. Also, section 22a-174-22b uses a different method for allocating NO_x allowances. However, section 22a-174-22b results in fewer tons being allocated to sources than would be allowed by the model rule.

Considering the differences in allowance allocation methodology between section 22a-174-22b and 40 CFR Part 96, CT's regulation cannot be considered substantively identical to 40 CFR Part 96, as described in § 51.121(p). However, section 22a-174-22b does meet the requirements of § 51.121(f) through (o) and therefore, meets the requirements of § 51.121(b)(2) for interstate allowance trading programs. In this way, EPA finds that the program is similar enough to Part 96 for CT's sources to participate in the interstate NO_x allowance trading program administered by EPA. For additional information regarding EPA's evaluation of CT's NO_x SIP Call submittal, the reader should refer to the document entitled, "Technical Support Document for Connecticut's NO_x SIP Call Submittal," dated May 4, 2000. Copies of the technical support document (TSD) can be obtained at either of the addresses listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

Section 22a-174-22b provides for the distribution of 473 early reductions to sources that implement NO_x reductions beyond applicable requirements after September 30, 1999 but before May 1, 2003. Under section 22a-174-22b, CT will only provide early reduction credits to those sources holding banked allowances that were allocated in 2000, 2001, and 2002, under CT's current NO_x budget program (*i.e.*, section 22a-174-22a). Section 22a-174-22a is CT's current SIP approved NO_x budget and allowance trading program that is part of the Ozone Transport Commission's regional NO_x cap and allowance trading program.

E. How Will Connecticut and EPA Enforce the Program?

Once approved into CT's SIP, both CT and EPA will be able to enforce the requirements of the NO_x budget and allowance trading program in section

22a-174-22b. All of the sources subject to the NO_x allowance trading program will have federally-enforceable operating permits that contain source specific requirements, such as emissions monitoring or pollution control equipment requirements. CT and EPA will be able to enforce the source specific requirements of those permits.

In order to determine compliance with the emission requirements of the program, at the end of each ozone season, CT and EPA will compare sources' allowance and emission accounts in the NO_x Allowance Tracking System (NATS). To be in compliance, sources must hold a number of available allowances that meets or exceeds the number of tons of NO_x emitted by that source and recorded in the Emissions Tracking System (ETS) for a particular ozone season (May 1 to October 1). For sources with excess emissions, penalties include EPA deducting three times the unit's excess emissions from the unit's allocation for the next control period.

F. How Does Connecticut's Program Protect the Environment?

Based on air quality modeling assessments performed for the NO_x SIP Call, EPA believes that the NO_x reductions in CT and other states subject to the SIP Call will reduce the transport of ozone starting in 2003.

Decreases of NO_x emissions will also help improve the environment in several important ways. Decreases in NO_x emissions will decrease acid deposition, nitrates in drinking water, excessive nitrogen loadings to aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and ambient concentrations of nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter and toxics. On a global scale, decreases in NO_x emissions reduce greenhouse gases and stratospheric ozone depletion.

G. What Is the Result of EPA's Evaluation of Connecticut's SIP Submittal?

EPA has evaluated CT's September 30, 1999, SIP submittal and finds it fully approvable. The September 30, 1999 submittal will strengthen CT's SIP for reducing ground level ozone by providing NO_x reductions beginning in 2003. The submittal also meets the air quality objectives of the NO_x SIP Call. EPA finds the NO_x control measures, section 22a-174-22b, as well as the SIP narrative that includes CT's 2007 NO_x baseline and controlled budgets, fully approvable. EPA finds that the submittal contained the information necessary to demonstrate that CT has the legal authority to implement and enforce the control measures, as well as a

description of how the state intends to use the compliance supplement pool. Furthermore, EPA finds that the submittal demonstrates that the compliance dates and schedules, and the monitoring, record keeping and emission reporting requirements will be met.

Although section 22a-174-22b deviates from EPA's NO_x Budget Trading Model Rule, EPA finds that section 22a-174-22b is consistent with EPA's guidance and meets the air quality objectives of the NO_x SIP Call, including those found in 40 CFR part 51, 51.121 and 51.122, as well as the general SIP submittal requirements of the Act, § 110, 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.* The most significant difference between the EPA's model rule and CT's control regulation is related to the timing of the allocations to the affected sources. Under CT's NO_x Budget Program, EPA will allocate NO_x allowances to a general state account by April 1 of the year that is three years before the relevant control period. CT will then hold the allowances in this account until allocating to sources, which it will do by May 1 of the relevant control period. While this deviates from the timing requirements stipulated under § 51.121(p) for streamlined approval, it is approvable under § 51.121(f) through § 51.121(o) as discussed below.

CT's SIP revision does not differ from EPA's model rule (40 CFR part 96) significantly enough to prevent CT from participating in the EPA administered trading program. CT's rule allows EPA to fulfill its obligation under § 96.41 (*i.e.*, the timing requirements for NO_x allowance allocations) to both the state and its sources, and allocate to the state by April 1 of the year that is three years in advance of the relevant control period. Once EPA allocates to CT's general account, it will become the state's responsibility to allocate the allowances to its sources.

EPA continues to believe that allocating to sources three years in advance allows sources to design the compliance strategy (*i.e.*, installing controls or buying, selling or banking

allowances) that is most cost-effective for them. Decreasing sources' certainty about their future allocations and flexibility in meeting their obligations may impact their ability to comply with these requirements in the most cost-effective manner. Nevertheless, EPA believes CT's program will achieve the necessary reductions, albeit in a less cost-effective manner.

Regarding CT's SIP narrative, EPA finds that the submittal contains the required elements, including: the baseline inventory of NO_x mass emissions from EGUs, non-EGUs, area, highway and non-road mobile sources in the year 2007; the 2007 projected inventory reflecting NO_x reductions achieved by the state control measures contained in the submittal; and the commitment to meet the annual, triennial, and 2007 state reporting requirements. EPA further finds that CT's 2007 projected inventory, reflecting the control strategies, is approvable, meeting the air quality objectives of the NO_x SIP Call.

In order to approve CT's 2007 projected inventory as meeting the air quality objectives of the NO_x SIP Call, however, it is necessary to consider the adopted 2007 emission budgets and adopted NO_x reducing measures in Massachusetts (MA) and Rhode Island (RI) as well. Comparing the most recent technical amendments to the NO_x SIP Call budgets to the adopted and submitted NO_x SIP Call related measures from the three states, you can see that the adopted measures in CT, MA, and RI will reduce more NO_x from the EGU and non-EGU sectors than the NO_x SIP Call notices have required.

H. Why Is EPA Considering the NO_x SIP Call Submittals From CT, MA, and RI at the Same Time?

In February 1999, CT, MA, RI, and EPA signed a memorandum of understanding (*i.e.*, "the Three State MOU") agreeing to redistribute the EGU portions of the three states' budgets, as well as the compliance supplement pool allocations, amongst themselves. Under the Three State MOU, the combined

2007 controlled emission level and compliance supplement pool did not change for the three states, only the individual state EGU allocations and supplement pools were redistributed to provide CT with additional flexibility.

On September 15, 1999, EPA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPR) to approve the redistribution of the three states' allocations as described in the MOU and modified by the EPA's May 1999 NO_x SIP Call technical corrections.³ See 64 FR 50036. As described in the NPR, the sum of the 2007 budgets and supplement pool allocations for the three states after redistribution is identical to the sum of the three budgets and supplement pool allocations for the states as published in the May 1999 technical corrections **Federal Register** notice. In other words, the total NO_x reduction expected from the three states due to the SIP Call would be the same before and after the redistribution of budgets under the Three State MOU. In fact, both the May 1999 technical amendments and the September 1999 NPR required a NO_x reduction of 5,491 tons by the three states each ozone season from 2007 onward and provided a combined allocation of 961 tons from the compliance supplement pool.

On March 2, 2000, EPA published additional technical amendments to the NO_x SIP Call in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 11222). As can be seen in the tables below, the March 2, 2000 technical corrections primarily changed the highway mobile and non-EGU 2007 baselines and budgets for CT, MA, and RI. However, these changes largely cancel each other out, *e.g.*, the 2007 highway sub-inventory baselines and budgets increased by approximately the same amount in the three states. The March 2000 technical corrections, however, did not effect the amount of reduction expected from the EGU sector. The tables below compare the 2007 baselines and budgets for each sub-inventory sector for CT, MA, and RI as published in the May 1999 and March 2000 technical amendment **Federal Register** notices.

CT	5/99 baseline	3/00 baseline	Change in baseline	5/99 budget	3/00 budget	Change in budget
EGU	5,636	5,636	0	2,652	2,652	0
Non-EGU	5,124	5,397	273	4,970	5,216	246
Area	4,821	4,821	0	4,821	4,821	0
Nonroad	10,736	10,736	0	10,736	10,736	0
Highway	19,902	19,424	-478	19,902	19,424	-478
Total	46,220	46,015	-205	43,081	42,849	-232

³ You should note that EPA took comments on the Three State MOU NPR and intends to address those

comments in a future rulemaking. Therefore, we are

not seeking comments on the specifics of the Three State MOU NPR at this time.

MA	5/99 baseline	3/00 baseline	Change in baseline	5/99 budget	3/00 budget	Change in budget
EGU	16,479	16,479	0	15,145	15,146	1
Non-EGU	11,229	11,210	-19	10,296	10,298	2
Area	11,048	11,048	0	11,048	11,048	0
Nonroad	20,166	20,166	0	20,166	20,166	0
Highway	28,641	28,190	-451	28,641	28,190	-451
Total	87,563	87,092	-471	85,296	84,848	-448

RI	5/99 baseline	3/00 baseline	Change in baseline	5/99 budget	3/00 budget	Change in budget
EGU	1,082	1,082	0	997	997	0
Non-EGU	2,031	1,635	-396	2,031	1,635	-396
Area	448	448	0	448	448	0
Nonroad	2,455	2,455	0	2,455	2,455	0
Highway	3,879	3,843	-36	3,879	3,843	-36
Total	9,895	9,463	-432	9,810	9,378	-432

The March 2000 **Federal Register** listed 2007 ozone season baseline emissions from CT, MA, and RI as 46,015 tons, 87,092 tons, and 9,463 tons, respectively. The March 2000 **Federal Register** listed the 2007 ozone season budgets for CT, MA, and RI as 42,849 tons, 84,848 tons, and 9,378 tons, and provided the three states with compliance supplement pools of 569 tons, 404 tons, and 15 tons, respectively, or a total of 988 tons. In total, the March 2000 notice required the three states to reduce their NO_x emissions by 5,495 tons per ozone season beginning in 2007.

In the Fall of 1999, CT, MA, and RI all adopted and submitted SIP packages in response to the NO_x SIP Call. All three states adopted and submitted NO_x control regulations that rely on reductions from the EGU and large non-EGU units to achieve their emission budgets. The 2007 baseline ozone season emissions adopted by the states were 46,219 tons, 87,563 tons, and 9,895

tons, respectively, or a three state total of 143,677 tons per ozone season. The SIP packages adopted and submitted by CT, MA, and RI, included 2007 projected NO_x inventories of 44,993 tons, 83,345 tons, and 9,798 tons, respectively, or a three state total of 138,136 tons per ozone season. Therefore, the total NO_x reduction expected from the adopted and submitted SIP packages from CT, MA, and RI is 5,541 tons per ozone season.

As discussed above, EPA signed the Three State MOU between CT, MA, and RI. We endorse the concept that states can voluntarily join together and redistribute their NO_x SIP Call budgets and compliance supplement pool allocations, provided that the total after the redistribution is less than or equal to before redistribution, and provided that the states have formalized such an agreement in an MOU or similar device to which EPA also agrees. EPA supports this concept because such a redistribution is no different than the

effects of trading. For a detailed discussion of why EPA supports the concept that states can collectively redistribute their NO_x SIP Call budgets, see the proposed Three State MOU notice, 64 FR 49989, September 15, 1999. Given the fact that together the three states' regulations achieve at least the same NO_x reduction and allocate fewer than required compliance supplement pool allocations, EPA finds that the NO_x SIP Call SIP submittals from the three states collectively meet the air quality objectives of the NO_x SIP Call as published to date. In separate **Federal Register** notices today, EPA is also proposing approval of MA's and RI's NO_x SIP Call submittals.

You can find the NO_x SIP Call 2007 baselines, budgets, and compliance supplement pool allocations from the March 2000 technical amendments and the state adopted SIPs summarized in the table below.

State	SIP Call 2007 baseline (tons NO _x per ozone season) as of 03/00	State adopted 2007 baseline (tons NO _x per ozone season)	SIP call 2007 budget as of 03/00 (tons NO _x per ozone season)	State adopted 2007 budget (tons NO _x per ozone season)	SIP Call Projected reduction (tons NO _x per ozone season) as of 03/00	State projected reduction (tons NO _x per ozone season)	Compliance supplement pool state allocations as of 03/00	State adopted compliance supplement pool
CT	46,015	46,219	42,849	44,993	3,166	1,226	569	473
MA	87,092	87,563	84,848	83,345	2,244	4,218	404	473
RI	9,463	9,895	9,378	9,798	85	97	15	15
Total	142,570	143,677	137,075	138,136	5,495	5,541	988	961

For additional information regarding EPA's evaluation of CT's NO_x SIP Call submittal, the reader should refer to the TSD available at either of the addresses listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

I. What Other Significant Items Relate to Connecticut's Program?

In addition to submitting the September 30, 1999, SIP package in order to fulfill its NO_x SIP Call obligation, CT submitted section 22a-174-22b as part of its one-hour ozone

attainment plans for the serious and severe ozone nonattainment areas of the state. Both attainment plans rely on the NO_x reductions associated with section 22a-174-22b in 2003 and beyond. EPA proposed approval of CT's attainment plans for both the serious and severe nonattainment areas on December 16,

1999. See 64 FR 70348. Approval and implementation of section 22a-174-22b strengthens CT's SIP and is necessary in order for CT to fulfill a requirement of the one-hour ozone attainment plans.

Section 22a-174-22b is also related to the Ozone Transport Commission's (OTC's) ozone season NO_x budget program. On September 27, 1994, OTC adopted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that committed the signatory states, including CT, to the development and proposal of a region-wide reduction in NO_x emissions. The OTC agreement committed the states to one phase of NO_x reductions by 1999 and another phase of reductions by 2003.

As a signatory state of the MOU, CT adopted its NO_x budget and allowance trading regulation, section 22a-174-22a, on December 15, 1998. Section 22a-174-22a contained a NO_x emissions budget and allowance trading system for the ozone seasons of 1999 through 2002, the period known as "OTC Phase II." CT's phase II EGU budget is 5,866 tons per ozone season. EPA approved CT's phase II OTC NO_x budget regulation on September 28, 1999. See 64 FR 52238.

Section 22a-174-22b contains a new NO_x emissions budget and allowance trading program for the ozone seasons of 2003 and thereafter, the period known as "OTC phase III." Although EPA's technical corrections and the Three State MOU described above would allow CT an EGU budget of 4,564 tons per season in 2003 and beyond, section 22a-174-22b contains an EGU ozone season budget of 4,477 tons. This is equal to the budget agreed upon by OTC for CT under phase III of the OTC program. Therefore, although the OTC MOU obligations are not federal requirements, section 22a-174-22b can be viewed as satisfying the OTC phase III program requirements as well.

J. What Issues Are Associated With Connecticut's NO_x SIP Call Submittal?

On March 3, 2000, the D.C. Circuit ruled on *Michigan v. EPA*, affirming many aspects of the NO_x SIP call and remanding certain other portions to the Agency (e.g., the definition of an EGU and the control assumptions for internal combustion engines). Due to the Court's remanding of the EGU definition and IC engine control assumptions, EPA must now recalculate the final 2007 baseline, 2007 budget, and compliance supplement allocation for each state subject to the NO_x SIP Call, including CT. Those recalculated budgets are expected to be published in the next few months. However, this means that CT may be required to revisit its NO_x SIP Call program due to potential

forthcoming changes to the NO_x SIP Call requirements. At such time as EPA publishes new emission budget requirements, CT and other NO_x SIP Call subject states will be informed as to what, if any, changes are needed.

Additionally, as described above, the March 2, 2000 technical corrections changed the 2007 baselines and budgets for the highway and non-EGU sub-inventories in CT, MA, and RI. Therefore, when those states make the changes needed due to the remanded portions of the NO_x SIP Call, those states will need to adopt changes to the highway and non-EGU 2007 baselines and budgets as well.

III. Proposed Action

EPA has reviewed CT's September 30, 1999, SIP submittal using the NO_x SIP Call rulemaking notices and checklist. EPA has reviewed CT's control measures and projected reductions and finds them approvable. Therefore, EPA is proposing to approve section 22a-174-22b and CT's NO_x SIP Call narrative at this time.

EPA is soliciting public comments on the issues discussed in this proposal or on other relevant matters. These comments will be considered before EPA takes final action. Interested parties may participate in the Federal rulemaking procedure by submitting written comments to the EPA Regional office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this action.

Nothing in this action should be construed as permitting or allowing or establishing a precedent for any future request for revision to any State implementation plan. Each request for revision to the State implementation plan shall be considered separately in light of specific technical, economic, and environmental factors and in relation to relevant statutory and regulatory requirements.

IV. Administrative Requirements

Under Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993), this action is not a "significant regulatory action" and therefore is not subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget. This action merely approves state law as meeting federal requirements and imposes no additional requirements beyond those imposed by state law. Accordingly, the Regional Administrator certifies that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). Because this rule approves pre-existing requirements under state law and does not impose any additional enforceable duty beyond

that required by state law, it does not contain any unfunded mandate or significantly or uniquely affect small governments, as described in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4). For the same reason, this rule also does not significantly or uniquely affect the communities of tribal governments, as specified by Executive Order 13084 (63 FR 27655, May 10, 1998). This rule will not have substantial direct effects 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, as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999), because it merely approves a state rule implementing a federal standard, and does not alter the relationship or the distribution of power and responsibilities established in the Clean Air Act. This rule also is not subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997), because it is not economically significant.

In reviewing SIP submissions, EPA's role is to approve state choices, provided that they meet the criteria of the Clean Air Act. In this context, in the absence of a prior existing requirement for the State to use voluntary consensus standards (VCS), EPA has no authority to disapprove a SIP submission for failure to use VCS. It would thus be inconsistent with applicable law for EPA, when it reviews a SIP submission, to use VCS in place of a SIP submission that otherwise satisfies the provisions of the Clean Air Act. Thus, the requirements of section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) do not apply. As required by section 3 of Executive Order 12988 (61 FR 4729, February 7, 1996), in issuing this rule, EPA has taken the necessary steps to eliminate drafting errors and ambiguity, minimize potential litigation, and provide a clear legal standard for affected conduct. EPA has complied with Executive Order 12630 (53 FR 8859, March 15, 1988) by examining the takings implications of the rule in accordance with the "Attorney General's Supplemental Guidelines for the Evaluation of Risk and Avoidance of Unanticipated Takings" issued under the executive order. This rule does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

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.

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

Dated: June 21, 2000.

Mindy S. Lubber,

Regional Administrator, EPA-New England.

[FR Doc. 00-17186 Filed 7-11-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[MA076-7209b, FRL-6731-7]

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Massachusetts; Nitrogen Oxides Budget and Allowance Trading Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: In November 1999, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (MA) submitted a State Implementation Plan (SIP) to reduce air emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x). The submittal responds to the EPA's regulation entitled, "Finding of Significant Contribution and Rulemaking for Certain States in the Ozone Transport Assessment Group Region for Purposes of Reducing Regional Transport of Ozone," otherwise known as the "NO_x SIP Call." The submittal includes a narrative and a regulation that establish a statewide NO_x budget and a NO_x allowance trading program for large electricity generating and industrial sources beginning in 2003.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing approval of the MA's November 1999 SIP submittal including, MA's NO_x control regulation, 310 CMR 7.28, "NO_x Allowance Trading Program," and the SIP narrative materials: "Background Document and Technical Support For Public Hearings on the Proposed Revisions to the State Implementation Plan for Ozone," July 1999; "Supplemental Background Document For Public Hearings on Modifications to the July, 1999 Proposal to Revise the State Implementation Plan For Ozone," September 1999; and "Summary of Comments and Response To Comments From Public Hearings on Proposed Revisions to the State Implementation Plan for Ozone, Including Proposed 310 CMR 7.28." EPA is also proposing to approve changes to regulations 310 CMR 7.19, "Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) for Sources of

Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x)," and 310 CMR 7.27, "NO_x Allowance Program," related to emissions monitoring. EPA is proposing to approve Massachusetts' submittal for its strengthening effect pursuant to section 110 of the Clean Air Act (CAA).

DATES: EPA must receive written comments on or before August 11, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to David Conroy, Unit Manager, Air Quality Planning, Office of Ecosystem Protection (mail code CAQ), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I, One Congress Street, Suite 1100, Boston, MA 02114-2023. Copies of the documents relevant to this action are available for public inspection during normal business hours, by appointment at the Office Ecosystem Protection, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I, One Congress Street, 11th floor, Boston, MA 02114, and at the Division of Air Quality Control, Department of Environmental Protection, One Winter Street, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02108.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

On November 19, 1999, MA submitted a package of regulatory and narrative materials in order to comply with the NO_x SIP Call and strengthen its ozone SIP. EPA proposes full approval of MA's submittal.

The following table of contents describes the format for this

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. EPA's Action

- A. What action is EPA proposing today?
- B. Why is EPA proposing this action?
- C. What are the general NO_x SIP Call requirements?
- D. What is EPA's NO_x budget and allowance trading program?
- E. What is the Compliance Supplement Pool?
- F. What guidance did EPA use to evaluate Massachusetts' submittal?

II. Massachusetts' NO_x Budget Program

- A. What is Massachusetts' NO_x SIP Call submittal?
- B. When did Massachusetts propose and adopt the program?
- C. When did Massachusetts submit the SIP revision to EPA and when did EPA find it technically and administratively complete?
- D. What is Massachusetts' NO_x Budget Trading Program?
- E. How will Massachusetts and EPA enforce the program?
- F. How does Massachusetts' program protect the environment?
- G. What is the result of EPA's evaluation of Massachusetts' program?

H. Why is EPA considering the NO_x SIP Call submittals from CT, MA, and RI at the same time?

- I. What other significant items relate to Massachusetts' program?
- J. What issues are associated with the Massachusetts NO_x SIP Call submittal?

III. Proposed Action

IV. Administrative Requirements

In the following questions and answers, the term "you" refers to the reader of the notice and "we" refers to the EPA.

I. EPA's Action

A. What Action Is EPA Proposing Today?

EPA is proposing approval of MA's SIP submittal, including MA's NO_x control regulation, 310 CMR 7.28, "NO_x Allowance Trading Program" and the SIP narrative materials listed above. EPA is also proposing to approve changes to regulations 310 CMR 7.19, "Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) for Sources of Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x)," and 310 CMR 7.27, "NO_x Allowance Program," related to emissions monitoring.

MA submitted the adopted 310 CMR 7.28 and the SIP narrative, as well as the amendments to 310 CMR 7.19 and 310 CMR 7.27, with a request to revise the SIP on November 19, 1999. MA submitted the regulation and narrative in order to strengthen its one-hour ozone SIP and to comply with the NO_x SIP Call in each ozone season, *i.e.*, May 1 to October 1, beginning in 2003. EPA finds that MA's submittal is fully approvable as a SIP strengthening measure for Massachusetts' one-hour ground level ozone SIP and it meets the air quality objective of the NO_x SIP Call requirements that EPA has published to date. EPA will take action in a separate future rulemaking on whether Massachusetts' submittal meets the applicable NO_x SIP Call requirements themselves.

B. Why Is EPA Proposing This Action?

EPA is proposing this action in order to:

- Fulfill MA's and EPA's requirements under the Clean Air Act (the Act);
- Make MA's control regulation federally-enforceable and available for credit in the SIP;
- Make MA's SIP narrative, including the ozone season NO_x budget, federally enforceable as part of the MA SIP; and
- Give you the opportunity to submit written comments on EPA's proposed actions, as discussed in the **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** sections.