ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–7554–8]

RIN 2060–AF01

Availability of Additional Documents Relevant to Anticipated Revisions to Guideline on Air Quality Models Addressing a Preferred General Purpose (Flat and Complex Terrain) Dispersion Model and Other Revisions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of data availability.

SUMMARY: We are providing notice that additional information in the form of two documents relevant to revisions of the *Guideline on Air Quality Models*—hereafter, the *Guideline*—have been placed in Docket No. A–99–05. The revisions would enhance the Guideline by incorporating a new, general purpose dispersion model called the AMS/EPA Regulatory MODel (AERMOD) to replace the existing Industrial Source Complex (ISC3) model in many air quality assessments and incorporate a new downwash algorithm—PRIME. An earlier version of AERMOD was proposed, and we have considered recommendations made both in public comment on that proposal and by beta testers of the model's computer code. The two documents discussed today provide information on the performance of AERMOD when the model is modified in a manner suggested by public comment. We invite comment on these documents.

DATES: Comments must be in writing and either postmarked or received at the address below by October 8, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Copies of both documents have been placed in Docket No. A–99–05. These new documents are available for inspection at the EPA Docket Center, (EPA/DC) EPA West (MC 6102T), 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room (B102) is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Air Docket is (202) 566–1742.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph A. Tikvart, Leader, Air Quality Modeling Group (D243–01), Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711; telephone (919) 541–5562.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We have placed the two documents described below in Docket No. A–99–05:

1. USEPA, ''AERMOD: Latest Features and Evaluation Results.'' Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711; EPA Report No. EPA–454/R–03–003, July 2003.

2. USEPA, ''Comparison of Regulatory Design Concentrations: AERMOD vs. ISCST3, CTDMPLUS, ISD–PRIME.'' Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711; EPA Report No. EPA–454/R–03–002, July 2003.

These reports are also available on our modeling Web site (*http://www.epa.gov/scram001*) and provide technical details on AERMOD revisions since it was proposed in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 21506) on April 21, 2000. On April 15, 2003 (68 FR 18440), we promulgated proposed changes and additions to the *Guideline* (Appendix W to 40 CFR part 51) that were supported by public comments and that we deemed ready to finalize. Components of the proposal that we did not act on include: (1) Adopting AERMOD to replace ISCST3 in many assessments, (2) revising ISCST3 by incorporating a new downwash algorithm (PRIME) and renaming the model ISC–PRIME, and (3) updating the Emissions and Dispersion Modeling System (EDMS 3.1) in appendix A of the *Guideline*.

Nearly every commenter on the April 2000 proposal urged us to integrate the aerodynamic downwash PRIME algorithm into AERMOD (*i.e.*, not to require two models for some analyses), and no comments were received which contradicted these requests. In response to our request that this comment be addressed, AERMIC (the American Meteorological Society (AMS)/EPA Regulatory Model Improvement Committee) successfully revised AERMOD (version 02222), incorporating the PRIME algorithm and making other incidental modifications to respond to public comments and issues identified by beta testers of the code. Documentation of AERMOD (02222) and its computer code has since been available on our Web site (*http://www.epa.gov/scram001/tt26.htm#aermod*).

Also proposed in April 2000 was an EDMS upgrade to version 3.1. Since that proposal, the model developer—Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)—decided to further upgrade EDMS to incorporate AERMOD in a version 4.0. Performance evaluation and adequate documentation was requested in public comments (A–99–05), and in our April 15, 2003, notice we said that this new information would be forthcoming. Recently, however, FAA has decided to withdraw EDMS from the *Guideline's* appendix A. No new information is therefore provided in this action; we support this removal from appendix A and will address the details more fully in a future promulgation of the *Guideline.*

The most significant changes made to AERMOD in response to public comments include the following:

- addition of the PRIME downwash algorithms;
- modifications of the complex terrain algorithms to make AERMOD less sensitive to the selection of the domain of the study area;
- modification of (a) urban dispersion for low-level emission sources, such as area sources, to produce more realistic urban dispersion and (b) minimum mixing layer depths used to calculate the effective dispersion parameters for all dispersion settings;
- addition of plume meander to all stable and unstable conditions; and
- upgrades of AERMOD to include all the newest features that exist in the latest version of ISCST3 such as FORTRAN 90 compliance, allocatable arrays, EVENTS processing, and the TOXICS option.

The effect of these changes is now documented in the two reports cited above.

The performance analysis of model accuracy is summarized in: ''AERMOD: Latest Features and Evaluation Results.'' Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, EPA Report No. EPA–454/R–03–003, July 2003. That analysis provides comparisons of model estimates with measured air quality concentrations for a variety of source types and locations. Based on this analysis, we have concluded that (1) the performance of the revised version of AERMOD (02222) is slightly better than the April 2000 proposal and both versions of AERMOD significantly outperform ISCST3 and (2) AERMOD (02222) with PRIME performs slightly better than ISC–PRIME for aerodynamic downwash cases.

The consequence analysis of effects on design concentrations is summarized in: ''Comparison of Regulatory Design Concentrations: AERMOD vs. ISCST3, CTDMPLUS, ISD–PRIME.'' Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, EPA Report No. EPA–454/R–03–002, July 2003. That analysis provides comparisons of design concentrations (on which emission control limits might be based) for a wide variety of source configurations and settings. The analysis indicates that:

- for non-downwash settings, the revised version of AERMOD (02222), on average, tends to predict concentrations closer to ISCST3 with somewhat smaller

variations than the April 2000 proposal of AERMOD;

• where downwash is a significant factor in the air dispersion analysis, the revised version of AERMOD predicts maximum concentrations that are very similar to ISC–PRIME;

• for those source scenarios where maximum 1-hour cavity concentrations are calculated, the average AERMOD predicted cavity concentration tends to be about the same as the average ISC–PRIME cavity concentrations; and

• in general, the consequences of using the revised AERMOD, instead of the older model ISCST3, in complex terrain remained essentially unchanged, although they varied in individual circumstances.

Based on evaluations of the revisions described above, it appears that the modified AERMOD is ready to be incorporated into the *Guideline,* and we intend to promulgate the modified AERMOD (02222). This Notice of Data Availability concerning performance studies of the modified model is being provided to inform the public about the model performance and range of impacts which the improved version of AERMOD could have on estimated air quality concentrations. We invite public comment on the new studies (see **DATES**). Comments on the documents noticed today should be sent to the Docket Office (see **ADDRESSES**), and should clearly reference this Notice of Data Availability and Docket No. A–99–05.

Dated: August 26, 2003.

Henry C. Thomas,

Acting Director, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards.

[FR Doc. 03–22766 Filed 9–5–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPT–2003–0053; FRL–7327–4]

Certain New Chemicals; Receipt and Status Information

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Section 5 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) requires any person who intends to manufacture (defined by statute to include import) a new chemical (i.e., a chemical not on the TSCA Inventory) to notify EPA and comply with the statutory provisions pertaining to the manufacture of new chemicals. Under sections 5(d)(2) and 5(d)(3) of TSCA, EPA is required to publish a notice of receipt of a premanufacture notice (PMN) or an application for a test marketing exemption (TME), and to publish periodic status reports on the chemicals under review and the receipt of notices of commencement to manufacture those chemicals. This status report, which covers the period from August 1, 2003 to August 15, 2003, consists of the PMNs pending or expired, and the notices of commencement to manufacture a new chemical that the Agency has received under TSCA section 5 during this time period.

DATES: Comments identified by the docket ID number OPPT–2003–0053 and the specific PMN number or TME number, must be received on or before October 8, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted electronically, by mail, or through hand delivery/courier. Follow the detailed instructions as provided in Unit I. of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Cunningham, Director, Environmental Assistance Division, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (7408M), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460–0001; telephone number: (202) 554–1404; e-mail address: *TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general. As such, the Agency has not attempted to describe the specific entities that this action may apply to. Although others may be affected, this action applies directly to the submitter of the premanufacture notices addressed in the action. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

B. How Can I Get Copies of This Document and Other Related Information?

1. *Docket.* EPA has established an official public docket for this action under docket identification (ID) number OPPT–2003–0053. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to this action. Although a part of the official docket, the public docket does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the EPA Docket Center, Rm. B102-Reading Room, EPA West, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The EPA Docket Center Reading Room telephone number is (202) 566–1744 and the telephone number for the OPPT Docket, which is located in EPA Docket Center, is (202) 566–0280.

2. *Electronic access.* You may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the EPA Internet under the ''**Federal Register**'' listings at *http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/*.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA Dockets at *http://www.epa.gov/edocket/* to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified in Unit I.B.1. Once in the system, select ''search,'' then key in the appropriate docket ID number.

Certain types of information will not be placed in the EPA Dockets. Information claimed as CBI and other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute, which is not included in the official public docket, will not be available for public viewing in EPA's electronic public docket. EPA's policy is that copyrighted material will not be placed in EPA's electronic public docket but will be available only in printed, paper form in the official public docket. To the extent feasible, publicly available docket materials will be made available in EPA's electronic public docket. When a document is selected from the index list in EPA Dockets, the system will identify whether the document is available for viewing in EPA's electronic public docket. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified in Unit I.B.1. EPA intends to work towards providing electronic access to all of the publicly available docket materials through EPA's electronic public docket.

For public commenters, it is important to note that EPA's policy is that public comments, whether