

(77 FR 26413, May 4, 2012) promotes international regulatory cooperation to meet shared challenges involving health, safety, labor, security, environmental, and other issues and to reduce, eliminate, or prevent unnecessary differences in regulatory requirements. The FAA has analyzed this action under the policies and agency responsibilities of Executive Order 13609, and has determined that this action would have no effect on international regulatory cooperation.

*D. Executive Order 13771, Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs*

This rule is not subject to the requirements of EO 13771 (82 FR 9339, February 3, 2017) because it is issued with respect to a national security function of the United States.

## VIII. Additional Information

### A. Availability of Rulemaking Documents

An electronic copy of a rulemaking document may be obtained by using the Internet—

- Searching the Federal eRulemaking Portal (<http://www.regulations.gov>);
- Visiting the FAA's Regulations and Policies Web page at [http://www.faa.gov/regulations\\_policies](http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies) or
- Accessing the Government Publishing Office's Web page at <http://www.gpo.gov>.

Copies may also be obtained by sending a request (identified by docket or amendment number of the rule) to the Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Rulemaking, ARM-1, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591, or by calling (202) 267-9677.

Except for classified material, all documents the FAA considered in developing this rule, including economic analyses and technical reports, may be accessed from the Internet through the Federal eRulemaking Portal referenced above.

### B. Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act

The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (SBREFA) requires FAA to comply with small entity requests for information or advice about compliance with statutes and regulations within its jurisdiction. A small entity with questions regarding this document may contact its local FAA official, or the person listed under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section at the beginning of the preamble. You can find out more about SBREFA on the Internet at: <http://www.faa.gov/>

[regulations\\_policies/rulemaking/sbre\\_act/](#).

## List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 91

Air traffic control, Aircraft, Airmen, Airports, Aviation safety, Freight, Syria.

### The Amendment

In consideration of the foregoing, the Federal Aviation Administration amends chapter I of Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, as follows:

## PART 91—GENERAL OPERATING AND FLIGHT RULES

- 1. The authority citation for part 91 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 106(f), 106(g), 1155, 40101, 40103, 40105, 40113, 40120, 44101, 44111, 44701, 44704, 44709, 44711, 44712, 44715, 44716, 44717, 44722, 46306, 46315, 46316, 46504, 46506–46507, 47122, 47508, 47528–47531, 47534, Pub. L. 114–190, 130 Stat. 615 (49 U.S.C. 44703 note); articles 12 and 29 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (61 Stat. 1180), (126 Stat. 11).

- 2. In part 91, subpart M, add § 91.1609 to read as follows:

**§ 91.1609 Special Federal Aviation Regulation No. 114—Prohibition Against Certain Flights in the Damascus (OSTT) Flight Information Region (FIR).**

(a) *Applicability.* This section applies to the following persons:

- (1) All U.S. air carriers and U.S. commercial operators;
- (2) All persons exercising the privileges of an airman certificate issued by the FAA, except such persons operating U.S.-registered aircraft for a foreign air carrier; and
- (3) All operators of civil aircraft registered in the United States, except where the operator of such aircraft is a foreign air carrier.

(b) *Flight prohibition.* No person may conduct flight operations in the Damascus (OSTT) Flight Information Region (FIR), except as provided in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section.

(c) *Permitted operations.* This section does not prohibit persons described in paragraph (a) from conducting flight operations in the Damascus (OSTT) FIR, provided that such flight operations are conducted under a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement with a department, agency, or instrumentality of the U.S. government (or under a subcontract between the prime contractor of the department, agency, or instrumentality, and the person described in paragraph (a)), with the approval of the FAA, or under an exemption issued by the FAA. The FAA will process requests for approval or exemption in a timely manner, with the order of preference being: first, for those

operations in support of U.S. government-sponsored activities; second, for those operations in support of government-sponsored activities of a foreign country with the support of a U.S. government department, agency, or instrumentality; and third, for all other operations.

(d) *Emergency situations.* In an emergency that requires immediate decision and action for the safety of the flight, the pilot in command of an aircraft may deviate from this section to the extent required by that emergency. Except for U.S. air carriers and commercial operators that are subject to the requirements of part 119, 121, 125, or 135 of this chapter, each person who deviates from this section must, within 10 days of the deviation, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays, submit to the nearest FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) a complete report of the operations of the aircraft involved in the deviation, including a description of the deviation and the reasons for it.

(e) *Expiration.* This SFAR will remain in effect until December 30, 2018. The FAA may amend, rescind, or extend this SFAR No. 114, § 91.1609, as necessary.

Issued under authority provided by 49 U.S.C. 106(f) and (g), 40101(d)(1), 40105(b)(1)(A), and 44701(a)(5), in Washington, DC, on August 14, 2017.

**Michael P. Huerta,**  
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2017–18322 Filed 8–28–17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–13–P**

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### 40 CFR Part 52

[EPA–R06–OAR–2013–0167; FRL–9965–62–Region 6]

### Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Volatile Organic Compounds Rule Revision and Stage II Vapor Recovery

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

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Clean Air Act (CAA or the Act), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is approving revisions submitted by the State of Louisiana controlling emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and changes to the Stage II gasoline vapor recovery rule as part of the Louisiana State Implementation Plan (SIP).

**DATES:** This rule is effective on September 28, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** The EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket ID No. EPA-R06-OAR-2013-0167. All documents in the docket are listed on the <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, e.g., Confidential Business Information or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the Internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically through <http://www.regulations.gov> or in hard copy at the EPA Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 700, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Wendy Jacques, (214) 665-7395, [jacques.wendy@epa.gov](mailto:jacques.wendy@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Throughout this document “we,” “us,” and “our” means the EPA.

## I. Background

The background for this action is discussed in detail in our March 23, 2017, proposal (82 FR 14845). In that document we proposed to approve revisions submitted by the State of Louisiana controlling emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and changes to the Stage II gasoline vapor recovery rule as part of the Louisiana State Implementation Plan (SIP).

We received comments on the proposal. Our response to the comments are below.

## II. Response to Comments

*Comment:* We received three comments opposing our SIP revision. The commenters expressed concerns that our approval would make air quality worse.

*Response:* As discussed in our proposal and technical support document we do not believe our approval would worsen air quality. Under CAA section 110(l) we can approve a SIP revision if it would not interfere with any applicable requirement concerning attainment and reasonable further progress or any other applicable requirement under the CAA.

Consequently, the SIP-approved Stage II vapor recovery programs cannot be revised or removed unless it is demonstrated that revision or removal of such program from the SIP would not interfere with any applicable requirement under the CAA. While Louisiana’s submittal is not requesting the withdrawal of its Stage II rule for

these parishes, this SIP revision is requesting revisions to Louisiana’s Stage II requirements, and thus this revision must be shown to satisfy 110(l) of the CAA. We evaluated the SIP revision and found that it satisfies 110(l) of the CAA.

Stage II refers to vapor recovery systems on gasoline dispensing equipment for the control of emissions during the refueling of vehicles. This SIP revision provides an exemption to gasoline dispensing systems that service solely vehicles equipped with onboard refueling vapor recovery (ORVR) and is approvable because this is an equivalent vapor recovery system. In order for a system to meet ORVR requirements, the systems must demonstrate a 95 percent or greater VOC control efficiency, equivalent to the control achieved by a Stage II system; thus, there will be no increase in emissions as a result of this SIP revision. During the phase-in of ORVR controls, which began in 1997, Stage II vapor recovery has provided VOC reductions in ozone nonattainment areas and certain attainment areas of the OTR. As more vehicles equipped with ORVR became part of the fleet, Congress recognized that Stage II would eventually become a largely redundant technology, and provided authority to the EPA to allow States to substitute Stage II with ORVR in their SIPs after EPA finds that ORVR is in widespread use in the applicable area. EPA made the determination on May 16, 2012 that there was widespread use throughout the country (77 FR 28772). A detailed discussion of this guidance and the 110(l) demonstration is provided in the TSD. A copy of this memo is included in the docket.

*Comment:* EPA should not be repealed (*sic*) or defunded.

*Response:* The subject matter of this rulemaking is the control of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emissions and changes to the Stage II gasoline vapor recovery rule as part of the Louisiana State Implementation Plan (SIP). The funding of EPA is outside the scope of this rulemaking.

## III. Final Action

We are approving, into the Louisiana SIP, rule revisions to Louisiana Administrative Code Title 33 Environmental Quality Part III, chapters 1, 21, 22 and 25 in the 2008–2010 VOC Rule revisions submittal and chapter 21 in the 2011–2013 Permit Rule revisions submittal.

## IV. Incorporation by Reference

In this rule, we are finalizing regulatory text that includes incorporation by reference. In accordance with the requirements of 1

CFR 51.5, we are finalizing the incorporation by reference of the revisions to the Louisiana regulations as described in the Final Action section above. We have made, and will continue to make, these documents generally available electronically through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and/or in hard copy at the EPA Region 6 office.

## V. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

Under the CAA, the Administrator is required to approve a SIP submission that complies with the provisions of the Act and applicable Federal regulations. 42 U.S.C. 7410(k); 40 CFR 52.02(a). Thus, in reviewing SIP submissions, the EPA’s role is to approve state choices, provided that they meet the criteria of the CAA. Accordingly, this action merely approves state law as meeting Federal requirements and does not impose additional requirements beyond those imposed by state law. For that reason, this 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);
- 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, 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 this action does not involve technical standards; and
- Does not provide 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 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. 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 October 30, 2017. 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, Ozone, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

Dated: August 17, 2017.

**Samuel Coleman,**

*Acting Regional Administrator, Region 6.*

40 CFR part 52 is amended as follows:

#### PART 52—APPROVAL AND PROMULGATION OF IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 52 continues to read as follows:

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

#### Subpart T—Louisiana

■ 2. In § 52.970(c), the table titled “EPA Approved Regulations in the Louisiana SIP” is amended by:

■ a. Revising the entry for Section 111 and the entries under Chapter 7.

■ b. Removing the entries for Sections 919–919.A.6, 919.B.1, 919.B.2–919.B.5.g.v, 919.C, and 919.D.–F.

■ c. Adding entries in sequential order for Sections 1101, 1109, and 2103.

■ d. Removing the entries for Sections 2103.A–2103.B, 2103.C–2103.D.4, 2103.D.4.a, 2103.D.4.b.–2103.D.4.d, 2103.G.1–2103.G.2, 2103.G.3–2103.G.5, 2103.H.2.a.–d, 2103.H.3, 2103.I.6, 2103.I.7, 2107.E.1.–2, 2108.A, 2108.C.2.–2108.C.3, 2108.D.4, 2108.E.1.a.i.–ii. and E.1.b, 2108.E.2, 2108.E.3. and E.5, and 2108.F.1.

■ e. Adding entries in sequential order for Sections 2017 and 2018.

■ f. Revising the entry for Section 2121.A; the entry for Subchapter C of Chapter 21; the entries under Subchapters F, I, and J of Chapter 21; the entries under Chapter 22; and the entry for Chapter 25.

The revisions and additions read as follows:

#### § 52.970 Identification of plan.

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) \* \* \*

#### EPA-APPROVED LOUISIANA REGULATIONS IN THE LOUISIANA SIP

State citation	Title/subject	State approval date	EPA approval date	Comments
*	*	*	*	*
<b>Chapter 1—General Provisions</b>				
* Section 111 .....	* Definitions .....	* 1/20/2008 .....	* 8/29/2017, [Insert <b>Federal Register</b> citation].	* <b>Federal</b>
*	*	*	*	*
<b>Chapter 7—Ambient Air Quality</b>				
Section 701 .....	Purpose .....	03/20/08 .....	01/28/16, 81 FR 4891 .....	
Section 703 .....	Scope .....	03/20/08 .....	01/28/16, 81 FR 4891 .....	
Section 705 .....	Standards: Description of Ambient Air Quality Standards.	Dec. 1987, LR13:741 ..	03/08/89, 54 FR 09795 .....	Ref 52.999(c)(49).
Section 707 .....	Degradation of Ambient Air Having Higher Quality than Set Forth in these Sections Restricted.	Dec. 1987, LR13:741 ..	03/08/89, 54 FR 09795 .....	Ref 52.999(c)(49).
Section 709 .....	Measurement of Concentrations PM <sub>10</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> , CO, Atmospheric Oxidants, NO <sub>x</sub> , and Pb.	9/20/2006 .....	7/05/2011, 76 FR 38977 .....	Ref 52.999(c)(50).
Section 711 .....	Tables 1, 1a, and 2—Air Quality.	9/20/2006 .....	7/05/2011, 76 FR 38977 .....	PM <sub>2.5</sub> and PM <sub>10</sub> standards.

## EPA-APPROVED LOUISIANA REGULATIONS IN THE LOUISIANA SIP—Continued

State citation	Title/subject	State approval date	EPA approval date	Comments
*	*	*	*	*
<b>Chapter 11—Control of Emissions From Smoke</b>				
Section 1101 .....	Control of Air Pollution from Smoke: Purpose and Control of Smoke.	Dec. 1987, LR13:741 ..	03/08/89, 54 FR 09795 .....	Ref 52.999(c)(49).
*	*	*	*	*
Section 1109 .....	Stack Heights .....	Dec. 1987, LR13:741 ..	03/08/89, 54 FR 09795 .....	Ref 52.999(c)(49).
*	*	*	*	*
<b>Chapter 21—Control of Emissions of Organic Compounds</b>				
Section 2103 .....	Storage of Volatile Organic Compounds.	10/20/2010 .....	8/29/2017, [Insert <b>Register</b> citation].	<b>Federal</b> 2103.E.3 is not included in the SIP.
*	*	*	*	*
Section 2107 .....	Volatile Organic Compounds—Loading.	9/20/2008 .....	8/29/2017, [Insert <b>Register</b> citation].	<b>Federal</b> E.1.b., E.1.d. and E.1.e. have not been submitted for approval into the SIP.
Section 2108 .....	Marine Vapor Recovery .....	9/20/2008 .....	8/29/2017, [Insert <b>Register</b> citation].	<b>Federal</b>
*	*	*	*	*
Section 2121.A ...	Fugitive Emission Control .....	1/20/2008 .....	8/29/2017, [Insert <b>Register</b> citation].	<b>Federal</b>
*	*	*	*	*
<b>Subchapter C Solvent Degreasers</b>				
Section 2125 .....	Solvent Degreasers .....	1/20/2008 .....	8/29/2017, [Insert <b>Register</b> citation].	<b>Federal</b>
*	*	*	*	*
<b>Subchapter F Gasoline Handling</b>				
Section 2131 .....	Filling of Gasoline Storage Vessels.	7/20/2010 .....	8/29/2017, [Insert <b>Register</b> citation].	<b>Federal</b>
Section 2132 .....	Stage II Vapor Recovery Systems for Control of Vehicle Refueling Emissions at Gasoline Dispensing Facilities.	4/20/2011 .....	8/29/2017, [Insert <b>Register</b> citation].	<b>Federal</b> This rule is approved for fueling/refueling of only 100% ORVR vehicles.
*	*	*	*	*
<b>Subchapter I Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Facilities</b>				
Section 2145 .....	Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Facilities.	1/20/2008 .....	8/29/2017, [Insert <b>Register</b> citation].	<b>Federal</b>
<b>Subchapter J Limiting Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Emissions From Reactor Processes and Distillation Operations in the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturing Industry (SOCMI)</b>				
Section 2147 .....	Limiting VOC Emissions from SOCMI Reactor Processes and Distillation Operations.	1/20/2008 .....	8/29/2017, [Insert <b>Register</b> citation].	<b>Federal</b>
*	*	*	*	*
<b>Chapter 22—Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>)</b>				
Section 2201 .....	Affected Facilities in the Baton Rouge Nonattainment Area and the Region of Influence.	1/20/2008 .....	8/29/2017, [Insert <b>Register</b> citation].	<b>Federal</b>

## EPA-APPROVED LOUISIANA REGULATIONS IN THE LOUISIANA SIP—Continued

State citation	Title/subject	State approval date	EPA approval date	Comments
Section 2202 .....	Contingency Plan .....	1/20/2010 .....	11/30/11, 76 FR 74000 .....	Section 2202 approved in the Louisiana Register January 20, 2010 (LR 36:63).
*	*	*	*	*
<b>Chapter 25—Miscellaneous Incinerator Rules</b>				
Section 2511 .....	Standards of Performance for Biomedical Waste Incinerators.	1/20/2008 .....	8/29/2017, [Insert <b>Register</b> citation].	<b>Federal</b>
Section 2521 .....	Refuse Incinerators .....	1/20/2008 .....	8/29/2017, [Insert <b>Register</b> citation].	<b>Federal</b>
Section 2531 .....	Standards of Performance for Crematories.	1/20/2008 .....	8/29/2017, [Insert <b>Register</b> citation].	<b>Federal</b>
*	*	*	*	*

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[FR Doc. 2017-17844 Filed 8-28-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY****40 CFR Parts 52 and 81****[EPA-R04-OAR-2017-0085; FRL-9966-92-Region 4]****Air Plan Approval and Air Quality Designation; TN; Redesignation of the Knoxville 1997 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> Nonattainment Area to Attainment****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** On December 20, 2016, Tennessee, through the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), submitted a request for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to redesignate the Knoxville, Tennessee fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) nonattainment area (hereinafter referred to as the “Knoxville Area” or “Area”) to attainment for the 1997 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) and to approve a state implementation plan (SIP) revision containing a maintenance plan, a reasonably available control measures (RACM) determination, and source-specific requirements for the Area. EPA is approving Tennessee’s RACM determination for the Knoxville Area and incorporating it into the SIP; incorporating source-specific requirements for two sources in the Area into the SIP; determining that the Knoxville Area is attaining the 1997

Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS based on 2013–2015 data; approving Tennessee’s plan for maintaining the 1997 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS for the Knoxville Area (maintenance plan), including the associated motor vehicle emission budgets (MVEBs) for nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and direct PM<sub>2.5</sub> for the years 2014 and 2028, and incorporating it into the SIP; and redesignating the Knoxville Area to attainment for the 1997 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS.

**DATES:** This rule will be effective August 29, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket Identification No. EPA-R04-OAR-2017-0085. All documents in the docket are listed on the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) Web site. Although listed in the index, some information may not be publicly available, *i.e.*, Confidential Business Information or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the Internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or in hard copy at the Air Regulatory Management Section, Air Planning and Implementation Branch, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. EPA requests that if at all possible, you contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section to schedule your inspection. The Regional Office’s official hours of business are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Sean Lakeman of the Air Regulatory Management Section, in the Air Planning and Implementation Branch, Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. Sean Lakeman may be reached by phone at (404) 562-9043, or via electronic mail at [lakeman.sean@epa.gov](mailto:lakeman.sean@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Background**

On July 18, 1997, EPA promulgated the first air quality standards for PM<sub>2.5</sub>. EPA promulgated an annual standard at a level of 15.0 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m<sup>3</sup>), based on a 3-year average of annual mean PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations. In the same rulemaking, EPA promulgated a 24-hour standard of 65 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, based on a 3-year average of the 98th percentile of 24-hour concentrations. On October 17, 2006 (71 FR 61144), EPA retained the annual average NAAQS at 15.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup> but revised the 24-hour NAAQS to 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, based again on the 3-year average of the 98th percentile of 24-hour concentrations.

On January 5, 2005, at 70 FR 944, and supplemented on April 14, 2005, at 70 FR 19844, EPA designated the Knoxville Area as nonattainment for the 1997 Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS. All 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS areas were designated under title I, part D, subpart 1 (hereinafter “Subpart 1”). Subpart 1 contains the general requirements for nonattainment areas for any pollutant governed by a NAAQS and is less prescriptive than the other subparts of title I, part D. On April 25, 2007 (72 FR 20586), EPA promulgated its Clean Air Fine Particle Implementation Rule, codified at 40