

## Environmental Protection Agency

## § 51.852

(1) A National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis was completed as evidenced by a final environmental assessment (EA), environmental impact statement (EIS), or finding of no significant impact (FONSI) that was prepared prior to January 31, 1994;

(2)(i) Prior to January 31, 1994, an EA was commenced or a contract was awarded to develop the specific environmental analysis;

(ii) Sufficient environmental analysis is completed by March 15, 1994 so that the Federal agency may determine that the Federal action is in conformity with the specific requirements and the purposes of the applicable SIP pursuant to the agency's affirmative obligation under section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act (Act); and

(iii) A written determination of conformity under section 176(c) of the Act has been made by the Federal agency responsible for the Federal action by March 15, 1994.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of this subpart, a determination that an action is in conformance with the applicable implementation plan does not exempt the action from any other requirements of the applicable implementation plan, the NEPA, or the Act.

### § 51.851 State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision.

(a) Each State must submit to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a revision to its applicable implementation plan which contains criteria and procedures for assessing the conformity of Federal actions to the applicable implementation plan, consistent with this subpart. The State must submit the conformity provisions within 12 months after November 30, 1993 or within 12 months of an area's designation to nonattainment, whichever date is later.

(b) The Federal conformity rules under this subpart and 40 CFR part 93, in addition to any existing applicable State requirements, establish the conformity criteria and procedures necessary to meet the Act requirements until such time as the required conformity SIP revision is approved by EPA. A State's conformity provisions must contain criteria and procedures that are no less stringent than the re-

quirements described in this subpart. A State may establish more stringent conformity criteria and procedures only if they apply equally to non-Federal as well as Federal entities. Following EPA approval of the State conformity provisions (or a portion thereof) in a revision to the applicable SIP, the approved (or approved portion of the) State criteria and procedures would govern conformity determinations and the Federal conformity regulations contained in 40 CFR part 93 would apply only for the portion, if any, of the State's conformity provisions that is not approved by EPA. In addition, any previously applicable SIP requirements relating to conformity remain enforceable until the State revises its SIP to specifically remove them from the SIP and that revision is approved by EPA.

### § 51.852 Definitions.

Terms used but not defined in this part shall have the meaning given them by the Act and EPA's regulations, (40 CFR chapter I), in that order of priority.

*Affected Federal land manager* means the Federal agency or the Federal official charged with direct responsibility for management of an area designated as Class I under the Act (42 U.S.C. 7472) that is located within 100 km of the proposed Federal action.

*Applicable implementation plan or applicable SIP* means the portion (or portions) of the SIP or most recent revision thereof, which has been approved under section 110 of the Act, or promulgated under section 110(c) of the Act (Federal implementation plan), or promulgated or approved pursuant to regulations promulgated under section 301(d) of the Act and which implements the relevant requirements of the Act.

*Areawide air quality modeling analysis* means an assessment on a scale that includes the entire nonattainment or maintenance area which uses an air quality dispersion model to determine the effects of emissions on air quality.

*Cause or contribute to a new violation* means a Federal action that:

(1) Causes a new violation of a national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) at a location in a nonattainment or maintenance area which would

otherwise not be in violation of the standard during the future period in question if the Federal action were not taken; or

(2) Contributes, in conjunction with other reasonably foreseeable actions, to a new violation of a NAAQS at a location in a nonattainment or maintenance area in a manner that would increase the frequency or severity of the new violation.

*Caused by*, as used in the terms “direct emissions” and “indirect emissions,” means emissions that would not otherwise occur in the absence of the Federal action.

*Criteria pollutant or standard* means any pollutant for which there is established a NAAQS at 40 CFR part 50.

*Direct emissions* means those emissions of a criteria pollutant or its precursors that are caused or initiated by the Federal action and occur at the same time and place as the action.

*Emergency* means a situation where extremely quick action on the part of the Federal agencies involved is needed and where the timing of such Federal activities makes it impractical to meet the requirements of this subpart, such as natural disasters like hurricanes or earthquakes, civil disturbances such as terrorist acts, and military mobilizations.

*Emissions budgets* are those portions of the applicable SIP’s projected emissions inventories that describe the levels of emissions (mobile, stationary, area, etc.) that provide for meeting reasonable further progress milestones, attainment, and/or maintenance for any criteria pollutant or its precursors.

*Emissions offsets*, for purposes of § 51.858, are emissions reductions which are quantifiable, consistent with the applicable SIP attainment and reasonable further progress demonstrations, surplus to reductions required by, and credited to, other applicable SIP provisions, enforceable at both the State and Federal levels, and permanent within the timeframe specified by the program.

*Emissions that a Federal agency has a continuing program responsibility for* means emissions that are specifically caused by an agency carrying out its authorities, and does not include emissions that occur due to subsequent ac-

tivities, unless such activities are required by the Federal agency. Where an agency, in performing its normal program responsibilities, takes actions itself or imposes conditions that result in air pollutant emissions by a non-Federal entity taking subsequent actions, such emissions are covered by the meaning of a continuing program responsibility.

*EPA* means the Environmental Protection Agency.

*Federal action* means any activity engaged in by a department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal Government, or any activity that a department, agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government supports in any way, provides financial assistance for, licenses, permits, or approves, other than activities related to transportation plans, programs, and projects developed, funded, or approved under title 23 U.S.C. or the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*). Where the Federal action is a permit, license, or other approval for some aspect of a non-Federal undertaking, the relevant activity is the part, portion, or phase or the non-Federal undertaking that requires the Federal permit, license, or approval.

*Federal agency* means, for purposes of this subpart, a Federal department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal Government.

*Increase the frequency or severity of any existing violation of any standard in any area* means to cause a nonattainment area to exceed a standard more often or to cause a violation at a greater concentration than previously existed and/or would otherwise exist during the future period in question, if the project were not implemented.

*Indirect emissions* means those emissions of a criteria pollutant or its precursors that:

(1) Are caused by the Federal action, but may occur later in time and/or may be farther removed in distance from the action itself but are still reasonably foreseeable; and

(2) The Federal agency can practicably control and will maintain control over due to a continuing program responsibility of the Federal agency.

*Local air quality modeling analysis* means an assessment of localized impacts on a scale smaller than the entire nonattainment or maintenance area, including, for example, congested roadway intersections and highways or transit terminals, which uses an air quality dispersion model to determine the effects of emissions on air quality.

*Maintenance area* means an area with a maintenance plan approved under section 175A of the Act.

*Maintenance plan* means a revision to the applicable SIP, meeting the requirements of section 175A of the Act.

*Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)* is that organization designated as being responsible, together with the State, for conducting the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process under 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 1607.

*Milestone* has the meaning given in sections 182(g)(1) and 189(c)(1) of the Act.

*National ambient air quality standards (NAAQS)* are those standards established pursuant to section 109 of the Act and include standards for carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), ozone, particulate matter (PM-10), and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>).

*NEPA* is the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*).

*Nonattainment Area (NAA)* means an area designated as nonattainment under section 107 of the Act and described in 40 CFR part 81.

*Precursors of a criteria pollutant* are:

(1) For ozone, nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), unless an area is exempted from NO<sub>x</sub> requirements under section 182(f) of the Act, and volatile organic compounds (VOC).

(2) For PM-10, those pollutants described in the PM-10 nonattainment area applicable SIP as significant contributors to the PM-10 levels.

(3) For PM<sub>2.5</sub>:

(i) Sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) in all PM<sub>2.5</sub> nonattainment and maintenance areas,

(ii) Nitrogen oxides in all PM<sub>2.5</sub> nonattainment and maintenance areas unless both the State and EPA determine that it is not a significant precursor, and

(iii) Volatile organic compounds (VOC) and ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) only in PM<sub>2.5</sub>

nonattainment or maintenance areas where either the State or EPA determines that they are significant precursors.

*Reasonably foreseeable emissions* are projected future indirect emissions that are identified at the time the conformity determination is made; the location of such emissions is known and the emissions are quantifiable, as described and documented by the Federal agency based on its own information and after reviewing any information presented to the Federal agency.

*Regional water and/or wastewater projects* include construction, operation, and maintenance of water or wastewater conveyances, water or wastewater treatment facilities, and water storage reservoirs which affect a large portion of a nonattainment or maintenance area.

*Regionally significant action* means a Federal action for which the direct and indirect emissions of any pollutant represent 10 percent or more of a nonattainment or maintenance area's emissions inventory for that pollutant.

*Total of direct and indirect emissions* means the sum of direct and indirect emissions increases and decreases caused by the Federal action; i.e., the "net" emissions considering all direct and indirect emissions. The portion of emissions which are exempt or presumed to conform under § 51.853, (c), (d), (e), or (f) are not included in the "total of direct and indirect emissions." The "total of direct and indirect emissions" includes emissions of criteria pollutants and emissions of precursors of criteria pollutants.

(3) For PM<sub>2.5</sub>:

(i) Sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) in all PM<sub>2.5</sub> nonattainment and maintenance areas,

(ii) Nitrogen oxides in all PM<sub>2.5</sub> nonattainment and maintenance areas unless both the State and EPA determine that it is not a significant precursor, and

(iii) Volatile organic compounds (VOC) and ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) only in PM<sub>2.5</sub> nonattainment or maintenance areas where either the State or EPA determines that they are significant precursors.

[58 FR 63247, Nov. 30, 1993, as amended at 71 FR 17008, Apr. 5, 2006; 71 FR 40426, July 17, 2006]

§ 51.853

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EDITORIAL NOTE: At 71 FR 40426, July 17, 2006, § 51.852 was amended by removing the “; and” at the end of paragraph (1) and adding a period in its place. However, because of inaccurate amendatory language, the amendment could not be incorporated.

§ 51.853 Applicability.

(a) Conformity determinations for Federal actions related to transportation plans, programs, and projects developed, funded, or approved under title 23 U.S.C. or the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*) must meet the procedures and criteria of 40 CFR part 51, subpart T, in lieu of the procedures set forth in this subpart.

(b) For Federal actions not covered by paragraph (a) of this section, a conformity determination is required for each criteria pollutant or precursor where the total of direct and indirect emissions of the criteria pollutant or precursor in a nonattainment or maintenance area caused by a Federal action would equal or exceed any of the rates in paragraphs (b)(1) or (2) of this section.

(1) For purposes of paragraph (b) of this section, the following rates apply in nonattainment areas (NAA's):

	Tons/year
Ozone (VOC's or NO <sub>x</sub> ):	
Serious NAA's .....	50
Severe NAA's .....	25
Extreme NAA's .....	10
Other ozone NAA's outside an ozone transport region .....	100
Other ozone NAA's inside an ozone transport region:	
VOC .....	50
NO <sub>x</sub> .....	100
Carbon monoxide: All NAA's .....	100
SO <sub>2</sub> or NO <sub>2</sub> : All NAA's .....	100
PM-10:	
Moderate NAA's .....	100
Serious NAA's .....	70
PM <sub>2.5</sub> :	
Direct emissions .....	100
SO <sub>2</sub> .....	100
NO <sub>x</sub> (unless determined not to be a significant precursor) .....	100
VOC or ammonia (if determined to be significant precursors) .....	100
Pb: All NAA's .....	25

(2) For purposes of paragraph (b) of this section, the following rates apply in maintenance areas:

	Tons/year
Ozone (NO <sub>x</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> , or NO <sub>2</sub> ):	
All Maintenance Areas .....	100
Ozone (VOC's):	

	Tons/year
Maintenance areas inside an ozone transport region .....	50
Maintenance areas outside an ozone transport region .....	100
Carbon monoxide: All Maintenance Areas .....	100
PM-10: All Maintenance Areas .....	100
PM <sub>2.5</sub> :	
Direct emissions .....	100
SO <sub>2</sub> .....	100
NO <sub>x</sub> (unless determined not to be a significant precursor) .....	100
VOC or ammonia (if determined to be significant precursors) .....	100
Pb: All Maintenance Areas .....	25

(c) The requirements of this subpart shall not apply to:

(1) Actions where the total of direct and indirect emissions are below the emissions levels specified in paragraph (b) of this section.

(2) The following actions which would result in no emissions increase or an increase in emissions that is clearly de minimis:

(i) Judicial and legislative proceedings.

(ii) Continuing and recurring activities such as permit renewals where activities conducted will be similar in scope and operation to activities currently being conducted.

(iii) Rulemaking and policy development and issuance.

(iv) Routine maintenance and repair activities, including repair and maintenance of administrative sites, roads, trails, and facilities.

(v) Civil and criminal enforcement activities, such as investigations, audits, inspections, examinations, prosecutions, and the training of law enforcement personnel.

(vi) Administrative actions such as personnel actions, organizational changes, debt management or collection, cash management, internal agency audits, program budget proposals, and matters relating to the administration and collection of taxes, duties and fees.

(vii) The routine, recurring transportation of materiel and personnel.

(viii) Routine movement of mobile assets, such as ships and aircraft, in home port reassignments and stations (when no new support facilities or personnel are required) to perform as operational groups and/or for repair or overhaul.