

serious illness resulting from handling, using, or ingesting such substances, and the special packaging herein required is technically feasible, practicable, and appropriate for these substances:

* * * * *

(29) Methacrylic acid. Except as provided in the following sentence, liquid household products containing more than 5 percent methacrylic acid (weight-to-volume) in a single retail package shall be packaged in accordance with the provisions of § 1700.15(a), (b) and (c). Methacrylic acid products applied by an absorbent material contained inside a dispenser (such as a pen-like marker) are exempt from this requirement provided that: the methacrylic acid is contained by the absorbent material so that no free liquid is within the device; and under any reasonably foreseeable conditions of use the methacrylic acid will emerge only through the tip of the device.

* * * * *

Dated: December 21, 1998.

Sadye E. Dunn,

Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission.

List of Relevant Documents

1. Briefing memorandum from Susan Aitken, Ph.D., EH, to the Commission, "Proposed Special Packaging Standard for Household Products Containing Methacrylic Acid," November 23, 1998.
2. Memorandum from Susan Aitken, Ph.D., EH, to Mary Ann Danello, Ph.D., Associate Executive Director, EH, "Toxicity of Methacrylic Acid" August 12, 1998.
3. Memorandum from Susan C. Aitken, Ph.D., EH, to Mary Ann Danello, Ph.D., EH, "Human Injuries from Nail Products Containing Methacrylic Acid," August 12, 1998.
4. Memorandum from Marcia P. Robins, EC, to Susan Aitken, Ph.D., EH, "Economic Considerations: Proposal to Require Child-Resistant Packaging for Household Products Containing Methacrylic Acid," August 17, 1998.
5. Memorandum from Tewabe A. Asebe, EH, to Susan Aitken, Ph.D., EH, "Technical Feasibility, Practicability, and Appropriateness Determination for Proposed Rule to Require Special Packaging for Methacrylic Acid-Containing Products," August 17, 1998.
6. Memorandum from Bhooshan Bharat, Ph.D., LS, and Bhavi K. Jain, MS, LS, "Report on the Testing of Nail Products for Titratable Acid Reserve ("TAR"), Quantification of Methacrylic Acid, and pH," August 20, 1998.

[FR Doc. 98-34345 Filed 12-29-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

18 CFR Parts 161, 250, and 284

[Docket Nos. RM98-10-000 and RM98-12-000]

Regulation of Short-Term Natural Gas Transportation Services; Regulation of Interstate Natural Gas Transportation Services; Order Granting Extension of Time for Filing Comments

December 23, 1998.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE

ACTION: Order granting extension of time for filing comments.

SUMMARY: On July 29, 1998, the Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) in Docket No. RM98-10-000 (63 FR 42982) and a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) in Docket No. RM98-12-000 (63 FR 42974) dealing with the Regulation of Short-Term Natural Gas Transportation Services. The date for filing comments in these proceedings is being extended at the request of various interested parties.

DATES:

Comments on the NOPR are extended to and including April 22, 1998.

Comments on the NOI are extended to and including February 22, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David P. Boergers, Secretary 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, (202) 208-0400.

Before Commissioners: James J.

Hoecker, Chairman; Vicky A. Bailey, William L. Massey, Linda Breathitt, and Curt Hébert, Jr.

Regulation of Short-Term Natural Gas Transportation Services, Docket No. RM98-10-000

Regulation of Interstate Natural Gas Transportation Services, Docket No. RM98-12-000

Order Granting Extension of Time for Filing Comments

(Issued December 23, 1998)

On December 7, 1998, the Natural Gas Council (composed of the American Gas Association, the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, the Natural Gas Supply Association, and the Independent Petroleum Association of America) joined by the Process Gas Consumers Group, the American Iron and Steel Institute, the Georgia Industrial Group, and the Edison

Electric Institute submitted a letter, filed in Docket No. RM98-10-000, requesting an extension of time until April 22, 1999, within which to file comments in response to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR), issued July 29, 1998, in Docket No. RM98-10-000,¹ and the Notice of Inquiry (NOI), issued July 29, 1998, in Docket No. RM98-12-000.² Comments on the NOPR and NOI currently are due by January 22, 1999.

The Commission will grant an extension, until April 22, 1999, for parties to file comments on the NOPR and NOI. However, the Commission would be interested in any comments that can be filed on a voluntary basis, within the current schedule addressing the relationship between the short-term issues in the NOPR and the long-term issues in the NOI. The Commission emphasizes that any comments filed in January will not be the last opportunity for parties to have input on these important matters. The Commission merely wishes to be more fully apprised of the current state of the parties' ideas.

So far, the public discussions on the proposals in the NOPR and NOI have concentrated on the issue of auctions. The other issues included in the NOPR, such as negotiated terms and conditions or certificate policy, have received little attention. Similarly, there has been little dialogue concerning rate designs for long-term contracts that would remove or lessen the current bias toward short-term contracts. The extension will provide time for the industry to focus on these important issues and to better formulate comments. The informal dialogue that has occurred to date between the Commission staff and all the segments of the industry appears to have been worthwhile. The extension also will give the Commission's staff the opportunity to continue holding conferences and using other means to continue the interaction with all segments of the industry on all of the issues raised in the NOPR and NOI. The Commission requests that by January 22, 1999, parties identify any issues, other than those related to auctions, for which it might be beneficial for the Commission staff to convene a technical conference during the pendency of the extended comment period.

The additional time has been requested to permit the groups who joined in the request to engage in further discussions regarding the issues raised in the NOPR and NOI. The results of such consensus-building efforts will be of most value to the Commission if they

¹ 63 FR 42982 (Aug. 11, 1998).

² 63 FR 42974 (Aug. 11, 1998).

include all of the affected interests. The groups have committed to apprising the Commission of the status of their discussions at some interim date and the Commission would find that information helpful.

The Commission orders: The date for filing comments on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and the Notice of Inquiry in these dockets is extended to April 22, 1999.

By the Commission.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-34587 Filed 12-29-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[LA-49-1-7400; FRL-6204-5]

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality State Implementation Plans (SIP); Louisiana: Motor Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The EPA is proposing conditional approval of a Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program proposed by the State of Louisiana. This action is taken under section 110 of the Clean Air Act (the Act). This conditional approval is also being proposed under the parallel processing provision of 40 CFR part 51. The EPA is proposing a conditional approval because the SIP revision is lacking certain elements necessary to meet the statutory and regulatory requirements of an enhanced I/M program. To correct the SIP deficiencies, the State must commit by a date certain within one year of final EPA rulemaking on this SIP to: submit a demonstration supporting its claim of 100 percent network effectiveness; submit an effectiveness demonstration of sticker-based enforcement; submit an opinion from the State Attorney General regarding barriers to immediate suspension authority in the Louisiana Constitution; submit an updated interagency agreement between the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS); make changes to the DPS Official Motor Vehicle Inspection Manual (the Manual) to reflect: changing the weight of light-and heavy-duty vehicles covered by the

program in the nonattainment area from 8,500 lb. Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) to 10,000 lb. GVWR; adding test procedures for evaporative system checks in the nonattainment area to the Manual; adding a list of evaporative system check test equipment for the nonattainment area to the Manual; adding calibration of evaporative system check test equipment to the Manual; and adding an additional training requirement on evaporative system check equipment for inspector/technicians in the nonattainment area to the Manual. Furthermore, the State's I/M program must start up no later than January 1, 2000, to qualify for a final full approval.

If the State submits these documents and changes to the Manual to correct the deficiencies noted above by the date committed to within one year of the final conditional approval, then the I/M submittal will be fully approved into the SIP. If the conditions are not met by that date, the conditional approval converts to a disapproval. In addition, EPA has identified two sections of the Federal I/M Regulation for which the State cannot meet the requirements as written. The EPA intends to amend the sections of the Federal rule on test equipment and on-road testing to exempt programs that meet certain criteria from the portions of those sections which have been identified elsewhere in this action. The EPA cannot proceed with final action conditionally approving this SIP until it has completed final rulemaking amending the Federal I/M rule with respect to these issues.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before January 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on this action should be addressed to Mr. Thomas H. Diggs, Chief, Air Planning Section, at the EPA Regional Office listed below. Copies of the documents relevant to this action are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the following locations. Persons interested in examining these documents should make an appointment with the appropriate office at least 24 hours before the visiting day. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, Air Planning Section (6PD-L), 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 700, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733. Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Compliance Division, 7290 Bluebonnet, 2nd Floor, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Capital Regional Office, 11720 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Sandra G. Rennie, Air Planning Section (6PD-L), EPA Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733, telephone (214) 665-7367.

I. Background

A final EPA disapproval of the Louisiana 1996 I/M SIP revision was effective on February 13, 1998. Discussion of background leading up to that final disapproval can be found in the rulemakings on that SIP, 62 FR 61633 (June 9, 1997), 62 FR 41002 (July 31, 1997), and 62 FR 61633 (November 19, 1997). An 18-month sanction clock was started under section 179 of the Act on the effective date of the final disapproval. In July 1998, Louisiana sought greater flexibility from EPA for designing an I/M program tailored to meet the State's air quality needs. The EPA worked in parallel with the State in developing an approvable I/M SIP revision.

The State's I/M program is required because of its nonattainment classification and population. The SIP credits are not taken for the I/M plan in the 15% Rate-of-Progress (ROP) Plan or the 9% ROP plan, or the State's attainment demonstration. Additional information on these actions can be found in EPA's proposed approval in 63 FR 44192 dated August 18, 1998. Furthermore, EPA believes that in taking action under section 110 of the Act, it is appropriate to propose granting a conditional approval to this submittal since there are deficiencies with respect to certain statutory and regulatory requirements (identified herein) that EPA believes can be supplied by the State during the following 12 months. The State must commit to address the insufficiencies identified above by a date certain within one year of EPA final action on this SIP.

II. The State's Proposal

Louisiana published a notice of a proposed I/M SIP in the *Louisiana Register* on October 20, 1998. The State received public comment through December 1, 1998. The SIP contains a SIP narrative, I/M Rules, and several appendices including the DPS Manual addressing the requirements of the I/M program. The submittal is intended to fulfill the requirements of the Act for the ozone nonattainment area of Louisiana that is required to implement an I/M program.

III. EPA's Analysis of Louisiana's Proposal

The EPA reviewed the State's proposal against the requirements contained in the Act and Federal I/M