

specifying control measures for area sources of PM-10 are the lack of good scientific data on the quantity of the PM-10 reductions associated with specific "RACM/BACM." In order to appropriately develop guidance for agricultural operations, the following research is needed:

- Define appropriate and effective PM-10 control measures (potential RACM/BACMs) for agricultural operations that are economically and technologically feasible;
- Quantify PM-10 reductions resulting from the utilization of each proposed RACM/BACM; and
- Develop accurate emissions inventories for agricultural operations.

In the interim, States must include in their State Implementation Plans (SIPs) actions that will bring nonattainment areas into attainment within the time frame specified by the CAA. The Agricultural Air Quality Task Force (AAQTF) recommends that the available control measures (potential candidates for RACM/BACM) be based on the Conservation Management Practices (CMP) compiled by USDA.

VI. Voluntary Compliance Program Recommendations

The AAQTF considers that voluntary compliance programs are the appropriate strategy for agriculture. The AAQTF is proposing that voluntary compliance programs be used by air pollution regulatory agencies for reductions of PM-10 from agricultural operations in areas classified as nonattainment. The goal of these voluntary, incentive-based programs is to provide significant reductions of PM-10 emissions from agricultural operations while sustaining long-term agricultural production. In order for EPA to utilize this policy, the USDA incentive-based programs must include "accountability" and "backstop provisions." "Accountability" would encompass verification of participation in the program by NRCS or "appropriate agency." ("Farmers will self certify and NRCS will provide verification of percent application every third year or as appropriate.) Accountability would also include adequate recordkeeping of plans and participation by USDA. "Backstop" would be a failure to achieve participation credited in the SIP which would result in a "SIP Call" and could result in a regulatory approach by the state which could regulate individual agricultural operations.

Although the motivation for this program is to address PM-10 regulatory procedures, it is anticipated that this voluntary compliance program could also be used for other regulated

pollutants attributed to agricultural operations.

As part of this program, the AAQTF proposes the following:

- A guidance document for agriculture production be developed that would include proposed RACM/BACMs and estimated reductions of PM-10 associated with implementation of each abatement strategy. It is anticipated that RACM/BACM will need to be determined on a site specific basis. (A RACM/BACM may be appropriate for one location and not appropriate for another.) Provisions will be made to facilitate the incorporation of current research findings into this guidance document.

- Local elected officials from the soil and water conservation districts as agreed to in the USDA/EPA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) may administer the voluntary compliance program with technical assistance, education and training provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), land grant universities, and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

- Appropriate resources should be provided to the local soil and water conservation districts and NRCS personnel.

- SIP credits should be allowed based on the rate of participation (percentage of land mass and/or percentage of cooperators participating) and should be based on certification by officials of the conservation district on an annual basis.

- There should be no additional record keeping and reporting requirements on the cooperators beyond that required by the USDA programs.

- The success of this policy will depend upon the states ability to comply with the SIP.

- If agricultural operations are utilizing economically and technologically feasible control measures, the intent of this policy is not to place demands that will result in adverse impacts on those cooperators.

Dated: September 6, 2000.

John S. Seitz,

Director, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards.

[FR Doc. 00-23948 Filed 9-15-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[MT-001-0021 and SD-001-0009; FRL-6871-6]

Availability of Reports on Progress Made Toward the National Visibility Goal in Montana and South Dakota

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Federal regulations require states to develop a long-term strategy for achieving the National goal of preventing any future and remedying any existing manmade visibility impairment in mandatory Class I Federal areas. The long-term strategy must be periodically reviewed, and revised as appropriate, and a report must be provided to the public and the EPA Administrator. Since Montana and South Dakota never adopted long-term strategies, EPA incorporated a federal long-term strategy into their State Implementation Plans (SIPs) which commits EPA to periodically review the strategies and report its findings to the public. EPA has conducted the required reviews and is announcing the availability of the reports.

In Montana, visibility data were available for about half of the 12 mandatory Class I Federal areas. There were no clear visibility improvement or degradation trends at any of the areas for which data were available. Although optical data for Glacier National Park showed no trend through 1996, there was an apparent decline in visibility in 1997. Additional data are required to determine if 1997 marks the beginning of a trend or represents an anomaly.

In South Dakota, visibility data were available for the two mandatory Class I Federal areas. Long-term trends for Badlands National Park are difficult to determine due to inconsistencies in the data, however, some data indicate a slight degradation on the most-impaired days. Although the results of this review are inconclusive, there is a particular need to monitor trends closely in this park.

New visibility monitoring sites are planned for installation at several Montana mandatory Class I Federal areas in the near future and other new visibility monitoring sites already have been installed in the region of the South Dakota Class I areas. Data from these and other existing monitoring sites will be useful in evaluating visibility impairment in future long-term strategy reviews.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 18, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The reports are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Air and Radiation Program, Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, 999 18th Street, Suite 500, Denver, Colorado, 80202-2405. Interested persons should contact the person listed below to arrange a time to view these documents.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Platt, Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, (303) 312-6449.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 169A of the Clean Air Act requires visibility protection for mandatory Class I Federal areas where visibility has been determined to be an important value. The National visibility goal set forth in Section 169A(a)(1) is to prevent any future and remedy any existing manmade visibility impairment in these mandatory Class I Federal areas.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated regulations governing visibility on December 2, 1980 (codified in 40 CFR 51.300-51.307). These regulations include, among other things, requirements for states to revise their State Implementation Plans (SIPs) to ensure reasonable progress toward achieving the National visibility goal through the implementation of visibility monitoring, visibility new source review, and a long-term strategy (a 10-15 year plan for achieving the National visibility goal).

Neither Montana nor South Dakota adopted a visibility long-term strategy to meet the requirements of 40 CFR 51.306.

Therefore, on November 24, 1987 (see 52 FR 45132) EPA promulgated a new § 52.29 which incorporated a federal long-term strategy into the SIPs for Montana and South Dakota. This new section commits EPA to periodic reviews of the long-term strategy and reporting required by 40 CFR 51.306(c).

Under 40 CFR 52.29, EPA must conduct a periodic review, and revision if appropriate, of the long-term strategy. The resulting report on progress made toward the National visibility goal must be made available to the public. EPA has completed the review for Montana and South Dakota and is fulfilling the reporting requirements.

This notice today informs the public and identifies the appropriate

EPA regional office from which the public may gain further information and view the reports on progress made toward the National visibility goal in Montana and South Dakota.

Dated: September 12, 2000.

Carol M. Browner,
EPA Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00-23939 Filed 9-15-00; 8:45 am]

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EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

DATES AND TIME: Tuesday, September 26, 2000 at 1 p.m. (Eastern Time).

PLACE: Conference Room on the Ninth Floor of the EEOC Office Building, 1801 "L" Street, NW, Washington, DC 20507.

STATUS: The meeting will be open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: *Open Session.*

1. Announcement of Notation Votes, and
2. EEOC's 35th Anniversary—Panel Discussions

Note: Any matter not discussed or concluded may be carried over to a later meeting. (In addition to publishing notices on EEOC Commission meetings in the **Federal Register**, the Commission also provides a recorded announcement a full week in advance on future Commission sessions.) Please telephone (202) 663-7100 (voice) and (202) 663-4074 (TTD) at any time for information on these meetings.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Frances M. Hart, Executive Officer on (202) 663-4070.

This Notice Issued: September 14, 2000.

Frances M. Hart,
Executive Officer, Executive Secretariat.
[FR Doc. 00-24028 Filed 9-14-00; 2:11 pm]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[DA 00-2042]

800 MHz Specialized Mobile Radio (SMR) Service Frequencies in the Lower 80 Channels Pre-Auction Seminar Reminder; September 18, 2000

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document announces a free pre-auction seminar scheduled for Monday, September 18, 2000. This seminar will provide information about pre-auction procedures, service and auction rules, conduct of the auction, and the FCC remote bidding software.

DATES: September 18, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Sanderson of the Auctions Operations Branch at (717) 338-2888, or for Press Inquiries, Meribeth McCarrick at (202) 418-0654.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of a Public Notice released

September 7, 2000. The complete text of the public notice, including the registration form, is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room CY-A257), 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC. It may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Services, Inc. (ITS, Inc.) 1231 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 857-3800. It is also available on the Commission's web site at <http://www.fcc.gov>.

1. A free FCC pre-auction seminar for the 800 MHz Lower 80 Channels Auction (Auction No. 36) is scheduled for Monday, September 18, 2000. Interested parties must pre-register using the attached form or by calling the FCC. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the program will end by 2 p.m. The seminar will be held at the Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC. Potential bidders in the auction are strongly encouraged to attend. This seminar provides an opportunity for hands-on demonstrations of the FCC filing and bidding software and access to the FCC staff responsible for the 800 MHz band licensing and auction conduct procedures.

The following is a timeline of the important events prior to the auction start date:

Deadline to register for Pre-Auction Seminar: September 15, 2000
Seminar Date: September 18, 2000
Short Form Application (FCC Form 175): September 29, 2000 6 p.m. EST
Upfront Payments (via wire transfer): October 16, 2000 6 p.m. EST
Orders for Remote Bidding Software: October 17, 2000 5:30 p.m. EST
Mock Auction: October 30, 2000
Auction Start Date: November 1, 2000

2. It is strongly advised that potential bidders review all public notices released for this auction prior to the seminar. To register for the seminar, please contact the FCC's Auctions Hotline at (888)-225-5322, Press Option #2, or directly at (717) 338-2888.

Federal Communications Commission.

Margaret Wiener,
Deputy Chief, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division.

[FR Doc. 00-23882 Filed 9-15-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-02-U

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval,