



Coda.Tom@epamail.epa.gov
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To Jake Plante/AWA/FAA@FAA
cc Smith.Kristi@epamail.epa.gov,
Scavo.Kimber@epamail.epa.gov
bcc

Subject Federal Presumed to Conform Actions under General
Conformity

Dear Mr. Plante,

I have reviewed the subject Draft Notice that appeared in the Federal Register (FR, Vol. 72, No. 28, Monday, February 12, 2007). I want to offer comments from the EPA on the Draft Notice. The Draft Notice is consistent with EPA's provisions in its General Conformity Regulations to allow Federal agencies the ability to establish categories of actions that are presumed to conform with States implementation plans developed under the Clean Air Act to attain and maintain attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. It appears the FAA has been diligent to document a reasonable historical and technical justification to determine that these categories of actions typically fall below de minimis thresholds for applicability of general conformity requirements. Section IV which addresses how to apply presumed to conform actions is a well constructed guide that reflects a cautious and conservative approach to evaluating large actions that may include multiple categories of presumed to conform activities.

As a whole I applaud the FAA's efforts in issuing this Draft Notices in order to focus time and attention on projects with the greatest potential for emissions increases. The use of this list should provide better focus for your air quality evaluations and enable FAA to more effectively manage its general conformity responsibilities.

Tom Coda
U.S. EPA
Office of Air Quality and Standards
State and Local Programs Group



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