

## FACT SHEET

### **Advance Notice to Solicit Comments, Data and Information for Determining the Emissions Reductions Achieved in Ozone Nonattainment and Maintenance Areas from the Implementation of Rules Limiting the VOC Content of Architectural Coatings**

#### **ACTION**

- ◆ On August 24, 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an advance notice to solicit comments, data and information for determining the emissions reductions achieved in ozone nonattainment and maintenance areas from the implementation of rules limiting the VOC content of architectural and industrial maintenance (AIM) coatings.
- ◆ EPA also is announcing its willingness to meet with interested parties who request to meet with EPA to present their recommended approaches and rationales.
- ◆ This action grew out of questions which the paint industry and others had concerning EPA's final rule (published May 13, 2005) approving several State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions for the District of Columbia, State of Maryland and Commonwealth of Virginia, including the post 1999-2005 Rate-of-Progress (ROP) plan for the Metropolitan Washington DC 1-hour severe ozone nonattainment area (the Washington area).
- ◆ That ROP plan relied upon, among other measures, VOC emissions reductions from the District's, Maryland's and Virginia's already SIP approved AIM coatings rules to satisfy certain contingency measure requirements applicable to ROP plans.
- ◆ EPA had already approved those state AIM rules as being as stringent or more stringent than the otherwise applicable Federal AIM coatings rule.
- ◆ During the public comment period of the proposed rule (published in January 2005) to approve the Washington area ROP plan, EPA received comments related to the methodology and associated baseline EPA employed to calculate the VOC emissions reductions from the three States' (making up the Washington area) AIM rules.
- ◆ EPA said in the May 13 final rule approving the Washington area ROP plan that it was not necessary to choose among the baselines or calculation methodologies because sufficient emissions resulted from the state AIM rules whichever baseline or calculation method was used (those employed by EPA or suggested by the commenters). EPA also said that it recognizes the need to resolve conclusively how to determining the amount of VOC emissions reductions achieve from implementation of AIM coatings rules in a given ozone nonattainment area.

## **HOW DOES TODAY'S ACTION IMPACT THE ENVIRONMENT?**

- ◆ Consideration of all relevant comments, data, information, and recommendations submitted to EPA will allow EPA to formulate a practicable, technically sound approach for calculating the VOC emissions achieved and creditable from the implementation of an AIM rule in a given area. A 45-day comment period will begin at the date of publication of this proposal in the Federal Register.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- ◆ For further information about the rule, contact Marcia L. Spink, Associate Director for Air Programs, Air Protection Division, Mail Code 3AP20, EPA Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103, telephone (215) 814-2104, or by e-mail at [spink.marcia@epa.gov](mailto:spink.marcia@epa.gov). You may also visit <http://epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t1pfpr.html>
- ◆ EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air pollution programs. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.