

1/7/99

FACT SHEET

Reopening of Emissions Inventory Comment Periods for the Findings of Significant Contribution and Rulemakings on Section 126 Petitions and Federal Implementation Plans for Purposes of Reducing Interstate Transport of Ozone

TODAY'S ACTION

- ◆ The EPA is announcing the reopening the comment periods for emissions inventory revisions to the 2007 baseline sub-inventory information for the proposed rulemakings concerning the Clean Air Act section 126 petitions (the section 126 proposal) and the Federal implementation plans (FIPs) for the purpose of reducing interstate ozone transport. The comment periods will remain open until February 22, 1999. The comment periods remain closed for all other issues.
- ◆ For both proposals, this includes an additional opportunity to comment on source-specific emission inventory data; for the FIP proposal, it also includes the opportunity to comment on vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and nonroad mobile growth rates, VMT distribution by vehicle class, average speed by roadway type, inspection and maintenance program parameters, and other input parameters used in the calculation of highway vehicle emissions.

BACKGROUND

- ◆ By notice dated September 30, 1998, EPA proposed "Findings of Significant Contribution and Rulemakings on Section 126 Petitions and Federal Implementation Plans for Purposes of Reducing Interstate Ozone Transport," (63 FR 52213). This notice announced the opening of 60-day comment periods for the proposals ending on November 30, 1998.
- ◆ On October 21, 1998, EPA published longer, more detailed versions of these proposals entitled "Findings of Significant Contribution and Rulemaking on Section 126 Petitions for Purposes of Reducing Interstate Ozone Transport," (63 FR 56292), which may be referred to as the section 126 proposal; and "Federal Implementation Plans to Reduce the Regional Transport of Ozone," (63 FR 56394), which may be referred to as the FIP proposal.
- ◆ The EPA intends to finalize and implement the FIPs in the event that any of the 22 States or the District of Columbia do not submit the required State implementation plan provisions in response to the NO_x SIP call. The EPA published the NO_x SIP call rulemaking, "Finding of Significant Contribution and Rulemaking for Certain States in the Ozone Transport Assessment Group Region for Purposes of Reducing Regional Transport of Ozone," on October 27, 1998 (63 FR 57356).

- ◆ The NO_x SIP call and the section 126 petitions are both designed to reduce NO_x emissions that travel across the eastern United States and contribute to ozone nonattainment problems. The section 126 petitions request that EPA establish control requirements for groups of stationary sources which may also be subject to controls in response to the NO_x SIP call.
- ◆ Because the NO_x SIP call process, with the associated FIPs, overlaps considerably with the section 126 petition process, EPA is coordinating the actions as much as possible.
- ◆ Ozone is not emitted directly into the atmosphere. It is formed when emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds react in the presence of sunlight. While beneficial in the upper atmosphere, ozone in the lower atmosphere can cause a variety of health problems because it damages lung tissue, reduces lung function, and adversely sensitizes the lungs to other irritants.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ◆ Interested parties can download the comment period reopening notice from EPA's web site on the Internet at the following address: (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/otagsip.html>). For specific information about the emission inventory comment period, contact Greg Stella of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-3649. For further information about the section 126 rulemaking, contact Carla Oldham of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-3347. For further information about the FIP rulemaking, contact Doug Grano of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-3292.