

02/25/99

FACT SHEET

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING ON SECTION 126 PETITIONS FOR PURPOSES OF REDUCING INTERSTATE OZONE TRANSPORT; TECHNICAL CORRECTION, AND NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS

TODAY'S ACTION

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today proposing action on petitions (also known as section 126 petitions) from Maine and New Hampshire regarding the interstate transport of ozone under the 8-hour ozone standard. EPA has previously proposed action on these petitions with respect to the 1-hour ozone standard. This previous action was part of a proposal on eight petitions regarding interstate ozone transport that were submitted individually by eight northeastern States.
- ◆ Today's supplemental notice does not cover any additional emissions sources beyond those covered by the October 21, 1998 proposed rulemaking on the section 126 petitions.
- ◆ The control requirements that would apply to any sources for which a final finding is made were proposed in the October 1998 notice of proposed rulemaking.
- ◆ Today's action also corrects inadvertent errors in Table II-1 and the part 52 regulatory text in the October 21, 1998 proposed rulemaking on this subject.
- ◆ In addition, today's supplemental notice provides notice of the availability of additional technical documents that have recently been placed in the docket for a rulemaking on the interstate transport of ozone, commonly referred to as the NO_x SIP call.

BACKGROUND

- ◆ By notices dated September 30, 1998 and October 21, 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 and 63 FR 56292). Today's notice is a supplement to that action.
- ◆ In determining which of the emissions sources named in the 126 petitions significantly contribute to the petitioning States, EPA relied on the analyses from the NO_x SIP call. 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 nitrogen oxides (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 under the NO_x SIP call rulemaking.
- ◆ Because the NO_x SIP call process 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 supplemental notice from EPA's web site on the Internet at the following address: *<http://www.epa.gov/airlinks>*. 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.