

U.S. EPA FACT SHEET

Final Approval of South Coast Air Basin Contingency Measures for the 1997 PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

September 25, 2013

Summary

- The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires states to adopt and submit for EPA approval contingency measures that will be triggered in the event an area fails to meet reasonable further progress (RFP) milestones or fails to attain the NAAQS.
- EPA is approving fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) contingency measures for the South Coast air basin in California. Specifically, we are approving emissions reductions from California's clean vehicles measures, open and wood burning rules, an architectural coatings rule, and the Carl Moyer incentive program for contingency measure purposes. Our approval takes into consideration significant improvements in PM_{2.5} air quality in the South Coast air basin over the past decade.
- Today's final approval terminates the sanctions clocks and Federal implementation plan (FIP) clock that were triggered by EPA's partial disapproval of South Coast PM_{2.5} contingency measures on November 5, 2011.

Background

- In 1997, EPA promulgated annual and 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS of 15 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) and 65 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, respectively. In 2005, the South Coast air basin was designated "nonattainment" for the 1997 PM_{2.5} NAAQS.
- In 2007, the State of California submitted a PM_{2.5} State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the South Coast air basin and in November 2011 (effective January 9, 2012) EPA approved all elements of the South Coast 1997 PM_{2.5} SIP except for the contingency measures, which EPA disapproved.
- EPA's disapproval of the contingency measures started an 18-month off-set sanction clock and a 2-year highway sanction and FIP clock.
- In November 2011, the State submitted a contingency measure plan to correct this SIP deficiency, and in April 2013, the South Coast Air Quality Management District submitted a technical clarification to the plan. EPA proposed to approve the contingency measure plan on June 24, 2013 and provided for a 30-day public comment period.

For More Information: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/ca.html>