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Category: 45 – Criteria for Plan Revisions for Nonattainment Areas

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711

DATE: August 11, 1982

SUBJECT: Review of 1982 Ozone and CO SIP's

FROM: Darryl D. Tyler, Acting Director
Control Programs Development Division

TO: Director, Air and Waste Management Division
Regions II – IV, VI – VIII, X
Director, Air Management Division
Regions I, V, IX

We have received a number of questions from Regions regarding their 1982 carbon monoxide (CO) and ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP) reviews. In order to assure consistency among Regions, we intend to periodically prepare questions and answers and distribute them to all Regions. This is the first memorandum, of that series, which has been reviewed and agreed upon by all affected Headquarters offices.

1. What are the criteria for approval?

The statutory requirements are spelled out in Sections 110 and 171 to 178 of the Clean Air Act. The criteria for approval were published in EPA's policy statement in the January 22, 1981, Federal Register. While we intend to be appropriately flexible in so far as the law will allow, there are four conditions which cannot be violated for approval. These four essential conditions for plan approval are: the plan must show attainment of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) by 1987, the plan must include an approvable inspection/maintenance (I/M) program for all urban areas over 200,000 population, the plan must show reasonable further progress (RFP) toward attainment, and the plan must include schedules for the adoption and implementation of any incomplete SIP elements.

We will not expect reasonably available control technology (RACT) regulations for the stationary sources covered by the Group III control technique guideline (CTG) documents until after EPA publishes the final documents. Failure to complete the adoption of these regulations by July 1, 1982, should not be a basis for disapproval. On the other hand, SIP's should include regulations that provide for RACT on all major stationary sources of VOC that are not covered by a CTG or the plan should demonstrate that the existing level of control represents RACT.

When addressing SIP deficiencies (except as noted below), the Regions must make several findings before we can accept schedules. The necessary findings are: RFP is maintained, the State has made a reasonable effort to address the requirements in its July submittal, the proposed schedule is as

expeditious as practicable, the schedule includes specific submittal dates to EPA, and the governor is personally committed to ensure that the schedule will be met.

2. What specific action should Regions take on 1982 03 SIP's that are missing regulations for the Group III VOC sources?

For most affected States, the "Approval Status" section of Part 52 includes a statement that ". . . continued satisfaction of the requirements of Part D of the ozone portion of the SIP depends upon the adoption and submittal . . . by each subsequent January of additional RACT requirements for sources covered by CTG's issued by the previous January."

Where appropriate, States should be advised that this requirement will remain in effect and will establish the submittal date for the missing regulations. If this language is not currently in Part 52, Regions should incorporate it when final approval action is taken on the plan.

cc: Chief, Air Branch, Regions I-X
Charles Elkins
Jack Hidinger
Sheldon Meyers
Ed Reich
Lydia Wegman
Richard Wilson