

student loans by the Department. In that announcement, we set a schedule for Committee meetings and requested nominations for individual negotiators who represent key stakeholder constituencies for the issue to be negotiated to serve on the Committee. The Committee met on October 10–11, November 6–7, and December 11–12, 2023. During the negotiation sessions, the Committee discussed proposed regulations presented by the Department. At the end of the third negotiation session, the Committee took final consensus checks on each of the proposed regulations presented by the Department. In addition to the proposed regulations presented by the Department, the Committee discussed whether and how the Department could identify borrowers who are facing hardship but whose situations may not be reflected in either existing regulations or in the proposed regulations considered by the Committee.

Based upon a continued review of information related to hardship, the Department will convene the Committee for a fourth session to discuss only proposed regulations relating to that issue. The Committee will not discuss the proposed regulations for which it already conducted final consensus checks.

*Amended Schedule for Negotiation Sessions:* The Committee will meet for a fourth session on February 22–23, 2024.

Session times will be from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., with a public comment period from approximately 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., Eastern time on February 22, 2024. The Department will hold public comment only on February 22, 2024.

This session will be conducted virtually and available for the public to view. Individuals who wish to observe the Committee meetings must register. We will post a registration link closer to the start of negotiations on our website at [www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2023/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2023/index.html). The Department will also post recordings and transcripts of the meetings on that site.

We will provide information on how to request time to speak on our website at [www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2023/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2023/index.html).

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*Program Authority:* 20 U.S.C. 1098a.

**Nasser H. Paydar,**

*Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.*

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**BILLING CODE 4000–01–P**

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### 40 CFR Part 52

[EPA–R09–OAR–2022–0494; FRL–9931–01–R9]

#### **Air Plan Approval; Nevada; Clark County Department of Environment and Sustainability; Nonattainment New Source Review; 2015 Ozone Standard**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to approve a state implementation plan (SIP) revision submitted by the State of Nevada addressing the nonattainment new source review (NNSR) requirements for the 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). This SIP revision addresses the Clark County Department of Environment and Sustainability (DES or “Department”) portion of the Nevada SIP. This action is being taken pursuant to the Clean Air Act (CAA or “Act”) and its implementing regulations.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before March 4, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–R09–

OAR–2022–0494, at <https://www.regulations.gov>. For comments submitted at [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). The EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. The EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.*, on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, please contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. For the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <https://www2.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>. If you need assistance in a language other than English or if you are a person with disabilities who needs a reasonable accommodation at no cost to you, please contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Amita Muralidharan, EPA Region IX, 75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105. By phone: (415) 947–4140 or by email at [muralidharan.amita@epa.gov](mailto:muralidharan.amita@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Throughout this document, “we,” “us,” and “our” refer to the EPA.

#### **Table of Contents**

- I. Background and Purpose
- II. The State’s Submittal
  - A. What did the State submit?
  - B. What is the purpose of the submitted certification letter?
- III. Analysis of Nonattainment New Source Review Requirements
- IV. Proposed Action and Public Comment
- V. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

#### **I. Background and Purpose**

On October 26, 2015, the EPA promulgated a revised ozone NAAQS of 0.070 parts per million (ppm).<sup>1</sup> Upon promulgation of a new or revised NAAQS, the CAA requires the EPA to designate as nonattainment any area that is violating the NAAQS based on the three most recent years of ambient

<sup>1</sup> 80 FR 65292 (October 26, 2015).

air quality data. This action relates to Clark County, which was designated nonattainment for the 2015 ozone NAAQS on June 4, 2018.<sup>2</sup> Within Clark County, the Las Vegas Valley<sup>3</sup> was classified as a “Marginal” ozone nonattainment area for the 2015 ozone NAAQS. On January 5, 2023, the area was reclassified by operation of law to a “Moderate” ozone nonattainment area for failing to attain the 2015 ozone NAAQS by the applicable attainment date.<sup>4</sup> However, because the Department certified that its SIP-approved NNSR program satisfies the requirements for a Marginal area only, this action is only proposing to approve the Department’s certification as it pertains to a Marginal ozone nonattainment area.

On December 6, 2018, the EPA issued a final rule entitled, “Implementation of the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone: Nonattainment Area State Implementation Plan Requirements,” (“2015 SIP Requirements Rule”) which establishes the requirements and deadlines that state, tribal, and local air quality management agencies must meet as they develop implementation plans for areas where ozone concentrations exceed the 2015 ozone NAAQS.<sup>5</sup> Based on the initial nonattainment designation for the 2015 ozone standards, the Department was required to make a SIP revision addressing NNSR no later than August 3, 2021.<sup>6</sup> This requirement may be met by submitting a SIP revision consisting of a new or revised NNSR permit program, or an analysis demonstrating that the existing SIP-approved NNSR permit program meets the applicable 2015 ozone requirements and a letter certifying the analysis.

## II. The State’s Submittal

### A. What did the State submit?

The submitted 2015 Ozone Certification letter addressed by this proposal was adopted by the Department on July 20, 2021. It was submitted by the Nevada Division of

Environmental Protection (NDEP), the agency that serves as the governor’s designee for Nevada SIP submittals, on August 5, 2021, by a letter dated August 3, 2021.

NDEP’s August 5, 2021 submittal of the Clark County DES 2015 Ozone Certification letter was deemed by operation of law to meet the completeness criteria in 40 CFR part 51, Appendix V on February 5, 2022, which must be met before formal EPA review.

### B. What is the purpose of the submitted certification letter?

The Department’s submittal is intended to satisfy the 2015 SIP Requirements Rule that requires States to make a SIP revision addressing NNSR. The Department’s portion of the Nevada SIP currently contains its NNSR permit program that was approved in 2014, prior to the Las Vegas Valley’s current ozone nonattainment designation.<sup>7</sup> The submitted certification letter provides a mechanism for the Department to satisfy the 40 CFR 51.1314 submittal requirements based on its 2015 Marginal ozone nonattainment designation. The EPA’s analysis of how this SIP revision addresses the NNSR requirements for the 2015 ozone NAAQS is provided below.

## III. Analysis of Nonattainment New Source Review Requirements

NNSR is a preconstruction review permit program that applies to new major stationary sources or major modifications at existing sources within a nonattainment area and is required under CAA sections 172(c)(5) and 173.

As mentioned in Section I of this notice, NNSR permit program requirements were adopted for the 2015 ozone NAAQS at 40 CFR 51.1314 as part of the 2015 SIP Requirements Rule.<sup>8</sup> The minimum SIP requirements for NNSR permitting programs for the 2015 ozone NAAQS are contained in 40 CFR 51.165. These NNSR program requirements include those promulgated in the 2015 SIP Requirements Rule implementing the 2015 ozone NAAQS. The SIP for each ozone nonattainment area must contain NNSR provisions that: (1) set major source thresholds for nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) pursuant to 40 CFR 51.165(a)(1)(iv)(A)(i)–(iv) and (2); (2) classify physical changes as a major source if the change would constitute a major source by itself pursuant to 40 CFR 51.165(a)(1)(iv)(A)(3); (3) consider any

significant net emissions increase of NO<sub>x</sub> as a significant net emissions increase for ozone pursuant to 40 CFR 51.165(a)(1)(v)(E); (4) consider any increase of VOC emissions in Extreme ozone nonattainment areas as a significant net emissions increase and a major modification for ozone pursuant to 40 CFR 51.165(a)(1)(v)(F); (5) set significant emissions rates for VOC and NO<sub>x</sub> as ozone precursors pursuant to 40 CFR 51.165(a)(1)(x)(A)–(C) and (E); (6) contain provisions for emissions reductions credits pursuant to 40 CFR 51.165(a)(3)(ii)(C)(1)–(2); (7) provide that the requirements applicable to VOC also apply to NO<sub>x</sub> pursuant to 40 CFR 51.165(a)(8); (8) set offset ratios for VOC and NO<sub>x</sub> pursuant to 40 CFR 51.165(a)(9)(ii)–(iv); and (9) require public participation procedures compliant with 40 CFR 51.165(i).

The Department’s SIP-approved NNSR program,<sup>9</sup> established in Section 12.3 of the Clark County Air Quality Regulations, applies to the construction and modification of stationary sources, including major stationary sources in nonattainment areas under its jurisdiction. The Department’s submitted SIP revision includes a compliance demonstration, consisting of a table listing each of the 2015 ozone NAAQS NNSR SIP requirements from 40 CFR 51.165 and a citation to the specific provision of the rule satisfying the requirement. The submittal also includes a certification by the Department that the cited rules meet the federal NNSR requirements for the Marginal ozone nonattainment designation. These documents, including our Summary of Evaluation<sup>10</sup> of the Department’s submittal, are available in the docket for this action.

The EPA has reviewed the demonstration and cited program elements intended to meet the federal NNSR requirements for the 2015 ozone NAAQS and is proposing to approve the Department’s submittal because the current SIP-approved NNSR program satisfies all the 2015 SIP Requirements Rule NNSR program requirements applicable to the Las Vegas Valley as a Marginal ozone nonattainment area.

## IV. Proposed Action and Public Comment

The EPA is proposing to approve a SIP revision addressing the NNSR requirements for the 2015 ozone

<sup>2</sup> 83 FR 25776 (June 4, 2018).

<sup>3</sup> The Las Vegas Valley is the portion of Clark County referred to as Hydrographic Area 212. Hydrographic areas are shown on the State of Nevada Division of Water Resources’ map titled “Water Resources and Inter-basin Flows” (September 1971).

<sup>4</sup> 88 FR 775 (January 5, 2023).

<sup>5</sup> 83 FR 62998 (December 6, 2018). The 2015 SIP Requirements Rule addresses a range of nonattainment area SIP requirements for the 2015 ozone NAAQS, including requirements pertaining to attainment demonstrations, reasonable further progress (RFP), reasonably available control technology, reasonably available control measures, major new source review, emission inventories, and the timing of SIP submissions and of compliance with emission control measures in the SIP.

<sup>6</sup> 40 CFR 51.1314.

<sup>7</sup> 79 FR 62350 (October 17, 2014).

<sup>8</sup> 83 FR 62998 (December 6, 2018).

<sup>9</sup> 79 FR 62350 (October 17, 2014).

<sup>10</sup> Our review of the Department’s submittal is included in a Memorandum to Docket EPA–R09–OAR–2022–0494, titled “EPA Summary of Evaluation—Clark County Department of Environment and Sustainability 2021 Ozone Certification,” dated November 28, 2023.

NAAQS for the Department. In support of this proposed action, we have concluded that our approval of the submitted 2015 ozone certification for the Department would comply with section 110(l) of the Act because our approval of the ozone certification will not interfere with continued attainment or maintenance of the NAAQS in the Department. Similarly, we find that the submitted revision is approvable under section 193 of the Act because it does not modify any control requirement in effect before November 15, 1990, without ensuring equivalent or greater emission reductions. The EPA has concluded that the State's submission fulfills the 40 CFR 51.1314 revision requirement and meets the requirements of CAA sections 110, 172(c)(5), 173, 182(a)(2)(C), 193, and the minimum SIP requirements of 40 CFR 51.165. If we finalize this action as proposed, our action will incorporate this certification into the federally enforceable SIP and be codified through revisions to 40 CFR 52.1470 (Identification of plan).

The EPA has made, and will continue to make, the State's submission and all other materials available electronically through <https://www.regulations.gov> and at the EPA Region IX Office (please contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this preamble for more information). We will accept comments from the public on this proposal until March 4, 2024.

## V. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

Under the Clean Air Act, the Administrator is required to approve a SIP submission that complies with the provisions of the Act and applicable federal regulations. 42 U.S.C. 7410(k); 40 CFR 52.02(a). Thus, in reviewing SIP submissions, the EPA's role is to approve state choices, provided that they meet the criteria of the Clean Air Act. Accordingly, this proposed action merely proposes to approve state law as meeting federal requirements and does not impose additional requirements beyond those imposed by state law. For that reason, this proposed action:

- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Orders 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993) and 14094 (88 FR 21879, April 11, 2023);
- Does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*);
- Is certified as not having a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities

under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*);

- Does not contain any unfunded mandate or significantly or uniquely affect small governments, as described in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–4);
- Does not have federalism implications as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999);
- Is not subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997) because it proposes to approve a state program;
- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to Executive Order 13211 (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001); and
- Is not subject to requirements of Section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) because application of those requirements would be inconsistent with the Clean Air Act.

In addition, the SIP is not approved to apply on any Indian reservation land or in any other area where the EPA or an Indian tribe has demonstrated that a tribe has jurisdiction. In those areas of Indian country, the rule does not have tribal implications and will not impose substantial direct costs on tribal governments or preempt tribal law as specified by Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000).

Executive Order 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, 59 FR 7629, Feb. 16, 1994) directs Federal agencies to identify and address “disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects” of their actions on minority populations and low-income populations to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law. The EPA defines environmental justice (EJ) as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” The EPA further defines the term fair treatment to mean that “no group of people should bear a disproportionate burden of environmental harms and risks, including those resulting from the negative environmental consequences of industrial, governmental, and commercial operations or programs and policies.”

The State did not evaluate environmental justice considerations as part of its SIP submittal; the CAA and applicable implementing regulations neither prohibit nor require such an evaluation. The EPA did not perform an

EJ analysis and did not consider EJ in this action. Consideration of EJ is not required as part of this action, and there is no information in the record inconsistent with the stated goal of E.O. 12898 of achieving environmental justice for people of color, low-income populations, and Indigenous peoples.

## List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

Dated: January 29, 2024.

**Martha Guzman Aceves,**

*Regional Administrator, Region IX.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### 40 CFR Part 52

[EPA–R09–OAR–2023–0626; FRL–11614–01–R9]

### Air Plan Disapproval; California; Los Angeles-South Coast Air Basin; 1997 8-Hour Ozone

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to disapprove a state implementation plan (SIP) revision submitted by the State of California to meet a Clean Air Act (CAA) requirement for the 1997 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS or “standards”) in the Los Angeles-South Coast Air Basin, California ozone nonattainment area (“South Coast”). This submission, titled “Final Contingency Measure Plan—Planning for Attainment of the 1997 80 ppb 8-hour Ozone Standard in the South Coast Air Basin,” (“Contingency Measure Plan” or “Plan”), addresses the CAA requirements for the submission of contingency measures that will be implemented if emissions reductions from anticipated technologies associated with the area's 1997 ozone NAAQS attainment demonstration are not achieved. We are taking comments on this proposal and plan to follow with a final action.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before March 4, 2024.