

• *Federal e-rulemaking portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Search for and submit comments on Docket No. BOEM–2025–0042.

• *U.S. Postal Service or other parcel delivery service:* Send comments on the proposed rule to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Office of Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Karen Thundiyil, Office Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs, BOEM, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

Instructions: All comments submitted regarding this proposed rule should reference Docket No. BOEM–2025–0042 or RIN 1010–AE26. All comments received by BOEM will be reviewed and may be posted to <https://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided with the submission. For further instructions on protecting personally identifiable information, see “Public Availability of Comments” under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Thundiyil, Office Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs, BOEM, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240, at email address regulatory.affairs@boem.gov, or at telephone number (202) 742–0970.

Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services for contacting the contacts listed in this section. These services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 9, 2026, BOEM published the proposed rule “Risk Management and Financial Assurance for OCS Lease and Grant Obligations.” 91 FR 11212. The major proposed amendments include returning to the previous BOEM practice of considering the financial strength of jointly liable predecessor lessees, revising the credit rating threshold for determining whether oil, gas, and sulfur lessees, right-of-use and easement grant holders, and pipeline right-of-way grant holders on the OCS are required to provide supplemental financial assurance above the required general financial assurance amount to ensure compliance with their Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act obligations,

revising the decommissioning estimate used to determine the amount of supplemental financial assurance required, and revising the appeals bond provision related to the Interior Board of Land Appeals appeal procedures. With this notice, we are extending the public comment period on the NPRM by seven days.

Public Availability of Comments

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. Before including your name, return address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personally identifiable information—may be made publicly available. In order for BOEM to withhold from disclosure your personally identifiable information, you must identify, in a cover letter, any information contained in the submittal of your comments that, if released, would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of your personal privacy. You must also briefly describe in such cover letter any possible harmful consequences of the disclosure of information, such as embarrassment, injury, or other harm. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personally identifiable information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Even if BOEM withholds your information in the context of this rulemaking, your submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and any relevant court orders. If your submission is requested under the FOIA or such court order, your information will only be withheld if a determination is made that one of the FOIA’s exemptions to disclosure applies or if such court order is challenged. Such a determination will be made in accordance with the Department’s FOIA regulations and applicable law.

Jennafer L. Foreman,

Chief of Staff, BOEM, Exercising the Delegated Authority of the BOEM Director.

[FR Doc. 2026–09208 Filed 5–7–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 17

[Docket No. VA–2024–VHA–0031]

RIN 2900–AS25

Updates to Waiver of Charges for Copayments

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Proposed rule; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is withdrawing a document published in the **Federal Register** on December 17, 2024, that requested public comment on VA’s proposal to revise its medical regulations to allow VA to initiate a waiver request for debt accumulated from health care copayments on behalf of veterans in certain circumstances and to remove the requirement that veterans submit VA Form 5655 when seeking a waiver of copayment debt. VA is withdrawing the proposed rule because VA has determined the proposed regulation is no longer necessary.

DATES: The proposed rule published at 89 FR 102031 on December 17, 2024, is withdrawn as of May 8, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The docket for this withdrawn proposed rule is available at www.regulations.gov/docket/VA-2024-VHA-0031.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kevin Johnson, Director, Revenue Operations, Office of Finance, Veterans Health Administration, (562) 480–2890.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a document published in the **Federal Register** on December 17, 2024, VA proposed to revise its medical regulations to allow VA to initiate a waiver request for debt accumulated from health care copayments on behalf of veterans in certain circumstances and to remove the requirement that veterans submit VA Form 5655 when seeking a waiver of copayment debt.

On November 20, 2025, VA announced it would relieve veterans of more than \$272 million in potential medical bills that accrued when certain copayment claims processing and collections stopped in early 2023, including the copayments giving rise to this rulemaking.¹ Therefore, VA is withdrawing the proposed rule because it is no longer necessary.

Signing Authority

Douglas A. Collins, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, approved this

¹ <https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-provides-veterans-relief-from-biden-era-backlogged-medical-bills/> (last accessed December 3, 2025).

document on April 20, 2026, and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Gabriela DeCuir,

*Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2026-09144 Filed 5-7-26; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R04-OAR-2025-0305; FRL-13350-01-R4]

Air Plan Approval; NC; Removal of the State's Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program

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 North Carolina, through the North Carolina Division of Air Quality (NCDAQ), on October 1, 2024. The revision seeks to remove North Carolina's vehicle inspection and maintenance (I/M) program from North Carolina's SIP which covers 19 counties. EPA is proposing to approve this change as it will not interfere with any applicable requirement concerning attainment and reasonable further progress or any other applicable requirement of the Clean Air Act (CAA or Act).

DATES: Comments must be received on or before June 8, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-R04-OAR-2025-0305 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). 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. 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, the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Weston Freund, Air Regulatory Management Section, Air Planning and Implementation Branch, Air and Radiation Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. The telephone number is (404) 562-8773. Mr. Freund can also be reached via electronic mail at freund.weston@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. What is being proposed?

North Carolina submitted a SIP revision on October 1, 2024, seeking to remove its SIP-approved I/M program, which covers the following counties: Alamance, Buncombe, Cabarrus, Cumberland, Davidson, Durham, Forsyth, Franklin, Gaston, Guilford, Iredell, Johnston, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, New Hanover, Randolph, Rowan, Union, and Wake. The SIP-approved I/M program consists of the following rules under 15A NCAC 02D, Section .1000 Motor Vehicle Emission Control Standards: Rule .1001, *Purpose*; Rule .1002, *Applicability*; Rule .1003, *Definitions*; and Rule .1005, *On-Board Diagnostic Standards*. NCDAQ submitted this SIP revision in response to North Carolina Session Law (S.L.) 2023-134 (House Bill 259), which amended North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) section 143-215.107A(c).¹

Sections 182(b)(4) and 187(a)(4) of the CAA require the implementation of an I/M program in certain areas classified as Moderate nonattainment or higher for the ozone or carbon monoxide (CO) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). In addition to the counties that were required to implement I/M in

¹ Section 12.7(b) of S.L. 2023-134 amended NCGS section 143-215.107A(c) to remove 18 of the 19 counties from North Carolina's I/M program, and Section 12.7(a) amended NCGS section 20-183.2(b) to change the vehicle model year coverage for Mecklenburg County which is the only county that would be retained in the state-level program. Section 12.7(d) of S.L. 2023-134 requires that Sections 12.7(a) and (b) become effective on the first day of a month that is 60 days after the Secretary of the Division of Environmental Quality certifies to the Revisor of Statutes that EPA has approved an amendment to the North Carolina SIP submitted as required by Section 12.7(c) (*i.e.*, the October 1, 2024 SIP revision) and applies to motor vehicles inspected, or due to be inspected, on or after that date.

North Carolina by the CAA, North Carolina opted to expand the I/M program to comply with a rule entitled "Finding of Significant Contribution and Rulemaking for Certain States in the Ozone Transport Assessment Group Region for Purposes of Reducing Regional Transport of Ozone" (also referred to as the NO_x SIP Call).² The I/M program was expanded in 2002 to include 39 total counties, including those covered in this proposed action, to provide North Carolina with emissions credits to meet its NO_x SIP Call obligations. See 67 FR 66056 (October 30, 2002). The NO_x SIP Call, issued by EPA in 1998, required some states, including North Carolina, to meet statewide NO_x emission requirements during the ozone season (May 1 through September 30 control period) to reduce the amount of ground level ozone that is transported across the eastern United States. See 84 FR 8422 (March 8, 2019). All counties in North Carolina are currently designated as attainment for all NAAQS.

As a part of the State's October 1, 2024, submittal, North Carolina included a CAA section 110(l) non-interference demonstration. Under section 110(l) of the CAA, EPA cannot approve a SIP revision if it would interfere with any applicable requirement concerning attainment and reasonable further progress (as defined by section 171 of the CAA), or any other applicable requirement of the CAA. Section III, below, provides EPA's analysis of the non-interference demonstration.

EPA is proposing to find that removal of North Carolina's I/M program from the SIP for the remaining 19 counties would not interfere with North Carolina's obligations under the NO_x SIP Call. This proposed finding is based on several federal rules and SIP-approved State provisions promulgated and implemented after EPA's 2002 approval of North Carolina's NO_x SIP Call submission. These federal rules and SIP provisions have created significant NO_x emission reductions in North Carolina such that the credits gained by the 19 counties' participation in the I/M program are no longer needed for North Carolina to meet its NO_x SIP Call Statewide NO_x emissions budget. North Carolina has provided an analysis which supports this proposed finding and is discussed in Sections II.B and III.A of this notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

North Carolina's SIP revision also evaluates the impact that the removal of the I/M program would have on the

² See 63 FR 57356 (October 27, 1998).