

measure requirements in CAA section 172(c)(9) and 40 CFR 51.1014.

#### IV. Summary of Proposed Action

In this action, EPA is proposing to approve the submitted revisions to the Alaska SIP as meeting the following Serious Plan required elements for the 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS Fairbanks Nonattainment Area:

- The 2013 base year emissions inventory (CAA section 172(c)(3); 40 CFR 51.1008(b)(1));
- The State's PM<sub>2.5</sub> precursor demonstration for NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC emissions (CAA section 189(e) 40 CFR 51.1006(a)); and

The EPA is proposing to approve the submitted sections of the Alaska Air Quality Control Plan for the Fairbanks PM<sub>2.5</sub> Nonattainment Area, State effective January 8, 2020:

- Volume II Section III.D.7.06 and Volume III Section III.D.7.06 Emissions Inventory for purposes of the 2013 base year emissions inventory;
- Volume II Section III.D.7.08 Precursor Demonstration, for the purposes of NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC emissions as it relates to BACM/BACT control measure requirements; and

Further, the EPA is proposing to approve the submitted section of the Alaska Air Quality Control Plan for the Fairbanks PM<sub>2.5</sub> Nonattainment Area, State effective December 25, 2020:

- Volume II Section III.D.7.12, Emergency Episode Plan.<sup>41</sup>

EPA is also proposing to approve and incorporate by reference submitted regulatory changes into the Alaska SIP. EPA is not at this time proposing to determine whether these provisions also meet other Serious area nonattainment plan requirements for the 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS in the Fairbanks PM<sub>2.5</sub> Nonattainment Area. Upon final approval, the Alaska SIP will include:

- 18 AAC 50.030, except (a), State effective January 12, 2018;
- 18 AAC 50.075, except (d)(2) and (f), State effective January 8, 2020;
- 18 AAC 50.076, except (g)(11), State effective January 8, 2020;
- 18 AAC 50.077, except (g) and (q), State effective January 8, 2020;
- 18 AAC 50.078, except (c) and (d), State effective January 8, 2020;
- 18 AAC 50.079, except (e), State effective January 8, 2020; and

- 18 AAC 50.990(71), (138), (149), (150), (151), (152), (153), (154), and (155), State effective January 8, 2020.

EPA is soliciting public comments on these proposed actions.

#### V. Incorporation by Reference

In this document, EPA is proposing to include regulatory text in an EPA final rule that includes incorporation by reference. In accordance with requirements of 1 CFR 51.5, EPA is proposing to incorporate by reference the regulations described in Section IV of this preamble. EPA has made, and will continue to make, these materials generally available through <https://www.regulations.gov> and at the EPA Region 10 Office (please contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this preamble for more information).

#### VI. 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, 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 13563 (76 FR 3821, January 21, 2011);
- 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 an economically significant regulatory action based on health or safety risks subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997);

- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to Executive Order 13211 (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001);

• 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; and

- Does not provide the EPA with the discretionary authority to address, as appropriate, disproportionate human health or environmental effects, using practicable and legally permissible methods, under Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994).

The SIP obligations discussed herein do not apply on any Indian reservation land or in any other area where EPA or an Indian tribe has demonstrated that a tribe has jurisdiction. This proposed action 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).

#### List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Carbon monoxide, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Lead, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Particulate matter, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Sulfur oxides, Volatile organic compounds.

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Dated: February 9, 2021.

**Michelle L. Pirzadeh,**

*Acting Regional Administrator, Region 10.*

[FR Doc. 2021-03064 Filed 2-19-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

#### 40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R09-OAR-2020-0605; FRL-10019-34-Region 9]

#### Air Plan Approval; California; Imperial County Air Pollution Control District

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to approve a revision to the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD) portion of the California State Implementation Plan (SIP). This revision concerns emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) from natural gas-fired

<sup>41</sup> Submitted on December 15, 2020 and included in the docket. EPA is not at this time proposing to determine whether this updated planning chapter, in conjunction with the associated regulatory changes, meets other Serious area nonattainment plan requirements for the 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS in the Fairbanks PM<sub>2.5</sub> Nonattainment Area.

water heaters. We are proposing to approve a local rule to regulate these emission sources under the Clean Air Act (CAA or the “Act”). We are taking comments on this proposal and plan to follow with a final action.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before March 24, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–R09–OAR–2020–0605 at <https://www.regulations.gov>. For comments submitted at *Regulations.gov*, follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from *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://www.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:** Robert Schwartz, EPA Region IX, 75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105. By phone: (415) 972–3286 or by email at [schwartz.robert@epa.gov](mailto:schwartz.robert@epa.gov).

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

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**I. The State’s Submittal**

*A. What rule did the State submit?*

Table 1 lists the rule addressed by this proposal with the dates that it was adopted by the local air agency and submitted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

TABLE 1—SUBMITTED RULE

Local agency	Rule No.	Rule title	Adopted	Submitted
ICAPCD .....	400.6	Natural Gas-Fired Water Heaters .....	11/26/2019	02/06/2020

On August 6, 2020, the submittal for ICAPCD Rule 400.6 was deemed by operation of law to meet the completeness criteria in 40 CFR part 51 Appendix V, which must be met before formal EPA review.

*B. Are there other versions of this rule?*

There are no previous versions of Rule 400.6 in the SIP.

*C. What is the purpose of the submitted rule?*

Emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> contribute to the production of ground-level ozone, smog, and particulate matter (PM), which harm human health and the environment. Section 110(a) of the CAA requires states to submit regulations that control NO<sub>x</sub> emissions. Rule 400.6 is a new rule that limits NO<sub>x</sub> emissions in the ICAPCD from natural gas-fired water heaters rated less than 75,000 Btu/hr.<sup>1</sup> The EPA’s technical support document (TSD) has more information about this rule.

<sup>1</sup> British thermal unit (Btu) per hour: The amount of heat required to raise the temperature of one pound of water from 59 °F to 60 °F at one atmosphere

**II. The EPA’s Evaluation and Action**

*A. How is the EPA evaluating the rule?*

Rules in the SIP must be enforceable (see CAA section 110(a)(2)), must not interfere with applicable requirements concerning attainment and reasonable further progress or other CAA requirements (see CAA section 110(l)), and must not modify certain SIP control requirements in nonattainment areas without ensuring equivalent or greater emissions reductions (see CAA section 193).

Generally, SIP rules must require reasonably available control technology (RACT) for each major source of NO<sub>x</sub> in ozone nonattainment areas classified as Moderate or above (see CAA sections 182(b)(2) and 182(f)). The ICAPCD regulates an ozone nonattainment area classified as Moderate for the 2008 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) (40 CFR 81.305) (84 FR 58641). However, because this rule does not affect major sources, it does not need to implement section 182(b)(2) RACT. While section 182(b)(2) RACT does not apply, the Imperial County ozone nonattainment area is still subject to the SIP requirement to implement all reasonably available control measures (RACM) and attainment of the NAAQS.

Guidance and policy documents that we used to evaluate enforceability, revision/relaxation and rule stringency requirements for the applicable criteria pollutants include the following:

1. “State Implementation Plans; General Preamble for the Implementation of Title I of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990,” 57 FR 13498 (April 16, 1992); 57 FR 18070 (April 28, 1992).
2. “Issues Relating to VOC Regulation Cutpoints, Deficiencies, and Deviations,” EPA, May 25, 1988 (the Bluebook, revised January 11, 1990).
3. “Guidance Document for Correcting Common VOC & Other Rule Deficiencies,” EPA Region 9, August 21, 2001 (the Little Bluebook).
4. “State Implementation Plans; Nitrogen Oxides Supplement to the General Preamble; Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 Implementation of Title I; Proposed Rule,” (the NO<sub>x</sub> Supplement), 57 FR 55620, November 25, 1992.
5. “Alternative Control Techniques Document—NO<sub>x</sub> Emissions from Industrial/ Commercial/Institutional (ICI) Boilers,” EPA 453/R–94–022 (March 1994).
6. “Alternative Control Techniques Document—NO<sub>x</sub> Emissions from Process Heaters (Revised),” EPA–453/R–93–034 1993/09 (September 1993).

*B. Does the rule meet the evaluation criteria?*

This rule meets CAA requirements and is consistent with relevant guidance regarding enforceability, RACM, and SIP revisions. The TSD has more information on our evaluation.

*C. The EPA Recommendations to Further Improve the Rule*

The TSD includes recommendations for the next time the local agency modifies the rule.

*D. Public Comment and Proposed Action*

As authorized in section 110(k)(3) of the Act, the EPA proposes to fully approve the submitted rule because it fulfills all relevant requirements. We will accept comments from the public on this proposal until March 24, 2021. If we take final action to approve the submitted rule, our final action will incorporate this rule into the federally enforceable SIP.

### III. Incorporation by Reference

In this rule, the EPA is proposing to include in a final EPA rule regulatory text that includes incorporation by reference. In accordance with requirements of 1 CFR 51.5, the EPA is proposing to incorporate by reference the ICAPCD rule described in Table 1 of this preamble. The EPA has made, and will continue to make, these materials available 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).

### IV. 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 13563 (76 FR 3821, January 21, 2011);
- 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 an economically significant regulatory action based on health or safety risks subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997);
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- 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; and
- Does not provide the EPA with the discretionary authority to address disproportionate human health or environmental effects with practical, appropriate, and legally permissible methods under Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994).

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).

### 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.

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Dated: February 5, 2021.

**Deborah Jordan,**

*Acting Regional Administrator, Region IX.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### 40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R09-OAR-2020-0238; FRL-10015-85-Region 9]

### Air Plan Approval; California; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District; Stationary Source Permits

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to approve a revision to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD or "the District") portion of the California State Implementation Plan (SIP). This revision concerns the District's New Source Review (NSR) permitting program for new and modified sources of air pollution under section 110(a)(2)(C) of the Clean Air Act (CAA); specifically our proposal to approve Rule 2021: Experimental Research Operations. We are taking comments on this proposal and plan to follow with a final action.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before March 24, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-R09-OAR-2020-0238 at <https://www.regulations.gov>, or via email to [R9AirPermits@epa.gov](mailto:R9AirPermits@epa.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). For either manner of submission, 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, or if you need assistance in a language other than English or if you are a person with a disability who needs a reasonable accommodation at no cost to you, please contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. For the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia