

Connecticut severe ozone nonattainment area and the Greater Connecticut serious ozone nonattainment area. On March 2, 1999, the D.C. Circuit Court ruled that submitted SIPs cannot be used for conformity determinations until EPA has affirmatively found them adequate. As a result of our finding, Connecticut can use the motor vehicle emissions budgets from the submitted SIP addenda for future conformity determinations.

DATES: These budgets are effective July 3, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The finding and the response to comments are available at EPA's conformity website: <http://www.epa.gov/oms/traq> (once there, click on the "Conformity" button, then look for "Adequacy Review of SIP Submissions for Conformity"). You may also contact Jeff Butensky, Environmental Planner, One Congress Street, Suite 1100 (CAQ), Boston, MA 02114-2023; (617) 918-1665; butensky.jeff@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Today's document publishes the Region's finding that the motor vehicle emissions budgets for the Southwest Connecticut severe ozone nonattainment area and the Greater Connecticut serious ozone nonattainment area for 2007 for VOC and NO_x are adequate for transportation conformity purposes. This finding has also been announced on EPA's conformity website: <http://www.epa.gov/oms/traq> (once there, click on the "Conformity" button, then look for "Adequacy Review of SIP Submissions for Conformity").

Transportation conformity is required by section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act. EPA's conformity rule requires that transportation plans, programs, and projects conform to state air quality implementation plans (SIPs) and establishes the criteria and procedures for determining whether or not they do. Conformity to a SIP means that transportation activities will not produce new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the national ambient air quality standards.

The criteria by which we determine whether a SIP's motor vehicle emission budgets are adequate for conformity purposes are outlined in 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4). Please note that an adequacy review is separate from EPA's completeness review, and it also should not be used to prejudge EPA's ultimate approval of the SIP. Even if we find a

budget adequate, the SIP could later be disapproved.

We have described our process for determining the adequacy of submitted SIP budgets in guidance (May 14, 1999 memo titled "Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999 Conformity Court Decision"). We followed this guidance in making and publishing our adequacy determination.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q.

Dated: June 1, 2000.

Mindy S. Lubber,

Regional Administrator, EPA New England.

[FR Doc. 00-15296 Filed 6-15-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6608-3]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared May 29, 2000 through June 02, 2000 pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under section 309 of the Clean Air Act and section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the Office of Federal Activities at (202) 564-7167.

An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in FR dated April 14, 2000 (65 FR 20157).

Draft EISs

ERP No. RD-FRA-A53055-00 Rating EC2, Proposed Rule for the Use of Locomotive Horns at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings in the United States.

Summary: EPA expressed concern regarding the lack of information on funding the quiet zones and requested that more flexibility be provided to those communities that have existing quiet zones.

Final EISs

ERP No. F-UAF-E11046-FL Tyndall Air Force Base, Implementation, Proposed Conversion of Two F-15 Fighter Squadrons to F-22 Fighter Squadrons, FL.

Summary: EPA believes that the proposed action will not pose significant and/or long-term adverse environmental consequences.

Dated: June 13, 2000.

Ken Mittelholtz,

Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 00-15302 Filed 6-15-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6608-2]

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7167 or www.epa.gov/oeca/ofa Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements filed June 05, 2000 through June 09, 2000 pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

EIS No. 000178, DRAFT EIS, COE, NE, Sand Creek Watershed Restoration Project, To Develop Environmental Restoration, City of Wahoo, Saunders County, NE, Due: July 31, 2000, Contact: Kevin Mayberry (402) 221-4020.

EIS No. 000179, FINAL EIS, AFS, UT, South Manti Timber Salvage, To address Ecological and Economic Values affected by Spruce Beetle Activity in the South Manti Project, Manti-La National Forest, Ferron-Price and Sanpete Ranger Districts, Sanpete and Sevier Counties, UT, Due: July 17, 2000, Contact: Don Fullmer (435) 637-2817.

EIS No. 000180, DRAFT EIS, NRC, MS, New Porters Bayou Watershed Plan, Reducing Flood and Drainage Damage To Cropland, Improvements to Watershed Channels, City of Shaw, Bolivar and Sunflower Counties, MS, Due: July 31, 2000, Contact: Homer L. Wilkes (601) 965-5205.

EIS No. 000181, FINAL EIS, IBR, CA, Lower Mokelumne River Restoration Program, Implementation, Resource Management Plan, San Joaquin County, CA, Due: July 17, 2000, Contact: Buford Holt (530) 275-1554.

EIS No. 000182, FINAL EIS, AFS, AK, Skipping Cow Timber Sale, Harvesting Timber, South half of Zarembo Island, Tongass National Forest, Wrangell Ranger District, Due: July 17, 2000, Contact: Jerry Jordan (907) 874-2323.

EIS No. 000183, DRAFT EIS, NPS, LA, Cane River Creole National Historical Park, General Management Plan, Natchitoches Parish, LA, Due: August 15, 2000, Contact: Jerry Belson (318) 352-0383.

EIS No. 000184, DRAFT EIS, COE, MS, TN, Wolf River, Memphis and

Tennessee Feasibility Study, Flood Control and Drainage Improvements, Marshall, Benton and Tippah Counties, MS and Shelby, Fayette and Hardeman, TN, Due: July 31, 2000, Contact: Richard Hite (901) 544-0706.

EIS No. 000185, DRAFT EIS, AFS, WV, Fernow Experimental Forest, Implementation of New Research Studies, Monongahela National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, Tucker County, WV, Due: July 31, 2000, Contact: Mary Beth Adams (304) 478-2000.

EIS No. 000186, REVISED DRAFT EIS, COE, CA, Delta Wetlands Project, Construction and Operation Revised Information for the Water Storage Project on Four Islands in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Approval of Permits, San Joaquin and Contra Costa Counties, CA, Due: July 31, 2000, Contact: Mike Finan (916) 557-5324.

EIS No. 000187, FINAL SUPPLEMENT, NOA, Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish and Sharks, Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan, Due: July 17, 2000, Contact: Rebecca Lent (202) 482-5181.

EIS No. 000188, FINAL EIS, NPS, WA, Whitman Mission National Historic Site, General Management Plan, Development Concept Plan, Implementation, Walla Walla County, WA, Due: July 17, 2000, Contact: Francis T. Darby (509) 522-6360.

Dated: June 13, 2000

Ken Mittelholtz,

Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 00-15303 Filed 6-15-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6708-9]

Regulatory Reinvention (XL) Pilot Projects

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Project XL Proposed Final Project Agreement: International Business Machines Corporation Copper Metallization Project.

SUMMARY: EPA is requesting comments on a proposed Project XL Final Project Agreement (FPA) for the International Business Machines Corporation, (hereafter "IBM") semiconductor manufacturing facility in Essex Junction, VT. The FPA is a voluntary agreement developed collaboratively by

IBM, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, EPA and interested stakeholders. Project XL, announced in the **Federal Register** on May 23, 1995 (60 FR 27282), gives regulated entities the flexibility to develop alternative strategies that will replace or modify specific regulatory or procedural requirements on the condition that they produce greater environmental benefits. EPA has set a goal of implementing fifty XL projects undertaken in full partnership with the states.

In the draft FPA, IBM proposes to determine whether the wastewater treatment sludge resulting from a new, innovative copper metallization process should continue to be designated a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste (F006). IBM's innovative copper metallization process is used to create electrical interconnections between device levels for new semiconductor technologies and replaces the Aluminum Chemical Vapor Deposition process used in previous generation semiconductor device technologies. Under current RCRA regulations, sludges or solids created from the treatment of wastewaters which include rinsewaters generated from an electroplating process carry the F006 listing (40 CFR 261.31). This process results in the generation of copper plating rinsewaters, which when introduced to the other process wastewaters generated at the facility, generates sludge that is regulated under RCRA as F006 hazardous waste. EPA currently considers IBM's process a traditional "electroplating" process for purposes of RCRA and therefore subject to its regulations.

It appears that this classification artificially inflates IBM's figures for hazardous waste generation, while at the same time not providing any additional environmental protection, and adding paperwork and reporting requirements. In addition, it appears that the source documents for the F006 listing focused on much different industrial processes than IBM's copper metallization process. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the chemicals used in IBM's process do not contain the heavy metals or cyanides listed in appendix VII of 40 CFR part 261 which are the focus of the original F006 listing. IBM has also conducted Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) analysis of the rinsewater sludge that demonstrates that the sludge is not hazardous per the RCRA toxicity characteristic requirements (see 40 CFR 261.24).

IBM has proposed that EPA exempt this copper metallization process for

semiconductor manufacture from the F006 definition through a site-specific rulemaking and that this be done through the Project XL process. EPA is proposing the site-specific rule for the IBM semiconductor manufacturing facility in Essex Junction, VT in this issue of the **Federal Register**. Project XL was chosen as the vehicle for this project because IBM is asking EPA to review its entire copper metallization process and not just analyze the resultant wastewater sludge. This novel approach will possibly provide the Agency with a new methodology for evaluating the applicability of its regulations to specific activities. This paradigm shift will allow the Agency appropriate flexibility to ensure that necessary environmental standards continue to be met while providing a means to adapt their regulatory framework to a changing industrial landscape.

DATES: The period for submission of comments ends on July 17, 2000.

ADDRESSEES: All comments on the proposed Final Project Agreement should be sent to: John Moskal, EPA New England, 1 Congress Street (SPP), Boston, MA 02114, or Chad Carbone, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Room 1027WT (1802), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460. Comments may also be faxed to Mr. Moskal (617) 918-1810, or Mr. Carbone (202) 260-1812. Comments may also be received via electronic mail sent to: moskal.john@epa.gov or carbone.chad@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To obtain a copy of the proposed Final Project Agreement, Test Plan or Fact Sheet, contact: John Moskal, EPA New England, 1 Congress Street (SPP), Boston, MA 02114 or Chad Carbone, Room 1027WT (1802) U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460. The FPA and related documents are also available via the Internet at the following location: <http://www.epa.gov/ProjectXL>. Questions to EPA regarding the documents can be directed to John Moskal at (617) 918-1826 or Chad Carbone at (202) 260-4296. For information on all other aspects of the XL Program contact Christopher Knopes at the following address: Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, United States Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Room 1029WT (Mail Code 1802), Washington, DC 20460. Additional information on Project XL, including documents referenced in this notice, other EPA policy documents related to Project XL, regional XL contacts, application