



## **July 2015 Action Initiation List (as of 9/1/2015)**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The following actions were initiated by EPA this month. Explanations of which EPA actions are included on this list and of each element of the table can be found at the end of this document.

The two most recent Action Initiation Lists (AILs) can always be found at: <http://www2.epa.gov/laws-regulations/actions-initiated-month>. But, they will not provide updates on the actions listed herein. Updates on priority rulemakings are available from EPA's Regulatory Development and Retrospective Review Tracker (RegDaRRT) on [www.epa.gov/rulemaking/](http://www.epa.gov/rulemaking/).

For all rules – those that are in RegDaRRT and those that are not – you may obtain updates twice a year in EPA's Semiannual Regulatory Agenda, which is accessible from these Web sites:

- EPA's Laws, Regulations, Guidance and Dockets (<http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/search/regagenda.html>)
- RegInfo.gov (<http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain>)
- Regulations.gov (<http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=UnifiedAgenda&agency=EPA&pubperiod=200710>)

Action Title	Stage	Contact	Abstract	Projected Publication Date
Miscellaneous Revisions to Parts 72 through 78	NPRM	Edgar Mercado 202-343-9440 Mercado.Edgar@epa.gov	The original Acid Rain Program core regulations (40 CFR Parts 72 through 78) were published on January 11, 1993. Since then, a number of revisions have been made to these rules based on lessons learned during implementation. In addition, substantive changes have been made to the Part 75 continuous monitoring regulation and to the associated definitions in Part 72, in order to adapt Part 75 monitoring to other State and Federal air programs. However, these various rule revisions have, for the most part, been narrow in scope, focusing on critical needs in specific areas. This proposed rule takes a more comprehensive approach by examining Parts 72 through 78 in entirety, and then revising the definitions in Part 72, updating test methods that are incorporated by reference, correcting known errors, and clarifying, removing and adding numerous provisions.	12 months or less
Revision to the Near-road NO2 Monitoring Requirements	NPRM	Nealson Watkins 919-541-5522 Watkins.Nealson@epa.gov	The proposed revision to the Near-road NO2 Monitoring Requirements will remove the existing network design requirement to install near-road NO2 monitoring stations in Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSAs) having populations between 500,000 and 1,000,000 persons, due by January 1, 2017. The EPA is initiating this action based on a review of research data and routine NO2 monitor data generated by existing near-road NO2 sites that were established in larger CBSAs beginning in 2012. The data from these near-road NO2 sites, the majority of which are located in higher populated CBSAs having 1,000,000 or more persons, indicate that the current NO2 air quality concentrations in the near-road environment are generally well below both the annual and 1-hour daily maximum NAAQS levels of 53 ppb and 100 ppb, respectively. Due to the correlation between population, traffic, and expected NO2 concentrations in the near-road environment, it is anticipated that measured near-road NO2 concentrations in relatively smaller CBSAs (e.g., CBSAs with populations less than 1,000,000 persons) would typically exhibit similar, if not lower, concentrations than what is being seen in larger urban areas. Therefore, this action seeks to reduce additional burden on state and local air monitoring agencies by removing monitoring requirements in locations where measured NO2 air quality is expected to be well below the NAAQS. This proposal does not relieve or otherwise modify the existing requirements for near-road NO2 monitoring in CBSAs having 1,000,000 or more persons.	12 months or less

Action Title	Stage	Contact	Abstract	Projected Publication Date
N-ethylpyrrolidone (NEP); Significant New Use Rule in Consumer Product Paint Removers	NPRM	Katherine Sleasman 202-564-7716 Sleasman.Katherine@epa.gov	Under the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA), EPA is proposing a significant new use rule (SNUR) for N-ethylpyrrolidone (NEP). The proposed significant new use is manufacture or processing for consumer use in paint removers. Persons subject to the SNUR would be required to notify EPA at least 90 days before commencing any manufacturing or processing of NEP for a significant new use. The required notification would provide EPA with the opportunity to evaluate the intended use and, if necessary based on the information available at that time, an opportunity to protect against potential unreasonable risks, if any, from that activity before it occurs.	12 months or less
Data Requirements for Non-target Insect Pollinators	NPRM	Ryne Yarger 703-605-1193 Yarger.Ryne@epa.gov	EPA is considering a proposal to update and codify the data requirements needed to characterize the potential risks of pesticides to bees and other insect pollinators. Pollinator insects are ecologically and economically important, and the data requirements under consideration are intended to provide the information the Agency needs to evaluate whether a proposed or existing use of a pesticide may have an unreasonable adverse effect on these important insects. This action may include updates to existing data requirements, the addition of new data requirements, or both, and is intended to support both the registration and registration review of pesticides. This is another rulemaking in a series of rulemakings initiated to consider improvements to the pesticide data requirements codified in 40 CFR part 158.	12 months or less
Revision of Certain Water Quality Standards Applicable to Maine	NPRM	Tracy Bone 202-564-5257 Bone.Tracy@epa.gov	EPA recently reviewed Maine's new or revised water quality standards ("WQS") and disapproved some of them, because they do not adequately protect the designated uses. EPA is proposing to update the disapproved criteria to reflect the latest science, including local and regional information and applicable EPA policies, guidance, and legal requirements.	12 months or less

Action Title	Stage	Contact	Abstract	Projected Publication Date
Aquatic Life Criteria for Copper and Cadmium in Oregon	NPRM	Erica Fleisig 202-566-1057 Fleisig.Erica@epa.gov	EPA is proposing water quality criteria in Oregon to protect aquatic life from the harmful effects of exposure to toxic levels of copper and cadmium. In January 2013, EPA disapproved Oregon's new and revised freshwater acute and chronic criteria for copper and acute criterion for cadmium, based on concerns that the criteria would not adequately protect aquatic life in Oregon. Oregon has not yet adopted criteria for copper and cadmium to address EPA's disapproval. Therefore, consistent with CWA Section 303(c)(3), EPA is proposing copper and cadmium criteria to protect aquatic life in Oregon. This rule will improve water quality, protect aquatic life, and strengthen Oregon's natural ecosystem.	More than 12 months

## What EPA Actions Appear on the AILs?

Generally, AILs include those actions that 1) will appear in upcoming *Semiannual Regulatory Agenda* and 2) have been approved for commencement by EPA's Regulatory Policy Officer. In rare instances, an action will not appear on an AIL before it appears in the *Agenda*. Also, keep in mind that AILs will not post immediately. You can access a given month's list roughly 20 days after the close of the month (e.g., the April 2014 AIL will post sometime around May 20th).

## What Does Each Column in the AIL Mean?

**Title:** Self-explanatory.

**Stage:** The stage of an action describes where we are in the rule writing process, from the very beginning when a rule (or other action) is just an idea to the end when it is published as a final rule (or other action) in the Federal Register. For example, the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) stage announces a proposed rule or proposed modification to an existing rule. In the AILs, the following acronyms are used:

- ANPRM - Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
- NPRM - Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
- Supplemental - Supplemental NPRM
- Direct Final - Direct Final Action
- Interim Final - Interim Final Action
- Final - Final Action
- Section 610 Review - Agency Review under Section 610 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act

**Contact:** Provides the name, phone, and email address for the EPA staff person assigned to this rule. Additionally, if a rule is in EPA's RegDaRRT ([www.epa.gov/rulemaking/](http://www.epa.gov/rulemaking/)), then a link to the rule's profile will be provided in this column.

**Abstract:** A brief summary of the action and its purpose.

**Projected Publication Date:** Since many variables affect how long it takes to write a rule or other action, it is difficult to predict a firm publication date when we have just started working on an action. Therefore, we insert one of two options in the "Projected Publication Date" column: 1) "12 months or less" and 2) "more than 12 months." These options give you some idea of how quickly we expect to complete an action.