

Revisions to the Clean Air Act Section 110 Submission Requirements for State Implementation Plans and Notice of Availability of an Option for Electronic Reporting

FACT SHEET

ACTION

- On February 3, 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notified state, local and tribal air agencies that they have the option to submit state implementation plans (SIPs) using the EPA's new electronic web-based SIP (eSIP) submission system. The eSIP system can be accessed at <https://cdx.epa.gov> beginning March 16, 2015.
- States develop SIPs to assure they attain and maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The plans must be reviewed and approved by the EPA.
- If a SIP submission is made through the eSIP submission system, all documents transmitted through the system will be considered part of the official SIP submission from the air agency.
- The eSIP system is the EPA's preferred method for air agencies to make SIP submissions.
- For air agencies that still prefer to make paper submissions, the EPA is reducing the number of paper copies required and providing non-binding guidelines for SIP submissions that will aid in SIP processing.
- This action can reduce costs and lessen the burden on air agencies and the EPA by providing for electronic reporting and requiring a reduced number of copies for paper submissions.

IMPROVEMENTS TO REGULATIONS

- The National Association of Clean Air Agencies and the Environmental Council of the States SIP Reform Workgroup, a cooperative initiative of state representatives and the EPA, recommended that EPA develop an electronic SIP submission system and make any regulatory changes that might be needed to make it available for use as an official submission mechanism.
- In response to the SIP Reform Workgroup and in light of technological advances, EPA has determined that it is unnecessary to continue to require paper submissions of SIPs now that an appropriate electronic submission system is available. Accordingly, the Agency is revising its rules to allow for electronic reporting through eSIP. This system provides sufficient evidence of the authenticity of electronic submissions and recognition in the courts.

BACKGROUND

- Under the Clean Air Act, air agencies are responsible for developing and submitting for approval SIPs that provide for attainment, maintenance and enforcement of the NAAQS and protection of visibility in certain national parks and other scenic areas known as Class I areas.
- Under existing EPA regulations, air agencies are required to submit multiple paper copies of their SIP submissions to EPA and are only provided an option of providing electronic versions in addition to paper copies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download this action and to get the most up to date information on eSIP go to EPA's website, at <http://www.epa.gov/oaqps001/urbanair/sipstatus/efficiency.html>
- Today's action and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, the EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room.
 - The Public Reading Room is located at the EPA Headquarters, room number 3334 in the EPA William Jefferson Clinton West Building, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.
 - Visitors are required to show photographic identification, pass through a metal detector and sign the EPA visitor log. All visitor materials will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. Visitors will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
 - Materials for this final action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2014-0337.
- For further information about this action, contact Ms. Mia South of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at (919) 541-5550 or by email at south.mia@epa.gov.