



**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**[EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0566; FRL-9907-85-OAR]**

**Release of Draft Integrated Review Plan for the Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Sulfur Dioxide**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** On or about March 17, 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is making available for public review the draft titled, *Integrated Review Plan for the Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Sulfur Dioxide* (draft IRP). This document contains the plans for the review of the air quality criteria for sulfur oxides and the national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) for sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>). The primary SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS provides for the protection of public health from exposure to sulfur oxides in ambient air.

**DATES:** Comments should be submitted on or before April 17, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** This document will be available primarily via the Internet at the following website: [http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/so2/s\\_so2\\_index.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/so2/s_so2_index.html).

Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0566, by one of the following methods:

- *www.regulations.gov*: Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
- *Email: a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov*.
- *Fax: 202-566-9744*.
- *Mail: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 2822T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20460. Please include a total of two copies.*

- *Hand Delivery:* 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Room 3334, Washington, D.C., EPA Docket Center, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Room 3334, Washington D.C. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

*Instructions:* Direct your comments to Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0566. The EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change and may be made available online at *www.regulations.gov*, including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected through *www.regulations.gov* (or email). The *www.regulations.gov* website is an "anonymous access" system, which means the EPA will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. If you send an email comment directly to the EPA without going through *www.regulations.gov*, your email address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available on the Internet. If you submit an electronic comment, the EPA recommends that you include your name and other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD-ROM you submit. If the EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, the EPA may not be able to consider your comment. Electronic files should avoid the use of special characters, any form of encryption, and be free of any defects or viruses. For additional information about the EPA's public docket, visit the EPA Docket Center homepage at <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/dockets.htm>.

*Docket:* All documents in the docket are listed in the *www.regulations.gov* index. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, e.g., CBI or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, will be publicly available only in hard copy. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically in *www.regulations.gov* or in hard copy at the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, EPA/DC, William Jefferson Clinton Building, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC. The Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is 202-566-1744, and the telephone number for the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center is 202-566-1742.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Michael J. Stewart, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Mail Code C504-06, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711; telephone number: 919-541-7524; fax number: 919-541-0237; email address: *stewart.michael@epa.gov*.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **I. General Information**

*A. What should I consider as I prepare my comments for the EPA?*

1. *Submitting CBI.* Do not submit this information to the EPA through *www.regulations.gov* or email. Clearly mark the part or all of the information that you claim to be CBI. For CBI information in a disk or CD-ROM that you mail to the EPA, mark the outside of the disk or CD-ROM as CBI and then identify electronically within the disk or CD-ROM the specific information that is claimed as CBI. In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the

information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public docket. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2.

*2. Tips for Preparing Your Comments.* When submitting comments, remember to:

- Identify the rulemaking by docket number and other identifying information (subject heading, *Federal Register* date and page number).
- Follow directions—The agency may ask you to respond to specific questions or organize comments by referencing a Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part or section number.
- Explain why you agree or disagree; suggest alternatives and substitute language for your requested changes.
- Describe any assumptions and provide any technical information and/or data that you used.
- If you estimate potential costs or burdens, explain how you arrived at your estimate in sufficient detail to allow for it to be reproduced.
- Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns, and suggest alternatives.
- Explain your views as clearly as possible, avoiding the use of profanity or personal threats.
- Make sure to submit your comments by the comment period deadline identified.

## **II. Information Specific to This Document**

Two sections of the Clean Air Act (CAA) govern the establishment and revision of the NAAQS. Section 108 (42 U.S.C. § 7408) directs the Administrator to identify and list certain air pollutants and then to issue air quality criteria for those pollutants. The Administrator is to list those air pollutants that in her “judgment, cause or contribute to air pollution which may

reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare;” “the presence of which in the ambient air results from numerous or diverse mobile or stationary sources;” and “for which . . . [the Administrator] plans to issue air quality criteria...” Air quality criteria are intended to “accurately reflect the latest scientific knowledge useful in indicating the kind and extent of all identifiable effects on public health or welfare which may be expected from the presence of [a] pollutant in the ambient air . . .” 42 U.S.C. § 7408(b). Under section 109 (42 U.S.C. § 7409), the EPA establishes primary (health-based) and secondary (welfare-based) NAAQS for pollutants for which air quality criteria are issued. Section 109(d) requires periodic review and, if appropriate, revision of existing air quality criteria. The EPA is also required to periodically review and, if appropriate, revise the NAAQS based on the revised criteria. Section 109(d)(2) requires that an independent scientific review committee “shall complete a review of the criteria. . . and the national primary and secondary ambient air quality standards . . . and shall recommend to the Administrator any new . . . standards and revisions of existing criteria and standards as may be appropriate . . . .” Since the early 1980's, this independent review function has been performed by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC).

Presently, the EPA is reviewing the primary NAAQS for SO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>1</sup> The draft document, announced today, has been developed as part of the planning phase for the review. This phase began with a science policy workshop to identify issues and questions to frame the review.<sup>2</sup> Drawing from the workshop discussions, the draft IRP has been prepared jointly by EPA’s National Center for Environmental Assessment, within the Office of Research and Development, and EPA’s Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, within the Office of Air and Radiation.

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<sup>1</sup> The EPA’s call for information for this review was issued on May 10, 2013 (78 FR 27387).

<sup>2</sup> The EPA held a workshop titled, “Kickoff Workshop to Inform EPA’s Review of the Primary SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS” on June 12-13, 2013 (78 FR 27387).

The draft IRP presents the current plan and specifies the schedule for the entire review, the process for conducting the review, and the key policy-relevant science issues that will guide the review. This document will be available on the EPA's Technology Transfer Network (TTN) website at

[http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/so2/s\\_so2\\_index.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/so2/s_so2_index.html)[http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/pb/s\\_pb\\_index.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/pb/s_pb_index.html), accessible in the "Documents from Current Review" section under "Planning Documents."

The draft IRP is being made available for CASAC review and for public comment. Comments should be submitted to the docket, as described above, by April 17, 2014. Information about the CASAC review meeting on this planning document, including the dates and location, will be published as a separate notice in the *Federal Register*. The final IRP will be prepared after considering comments from CASAC and the public. This draft document does not represent and should not be construed to represent any final EPA policy, viewpoint or determination.

Dated: March 6, 2014.

Mary E. Henigin, Acting Director,  
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards.

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