

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Parts 52 and 97

[FRL-XXXX-X]

**Reopening of Comment Period for the June 24, 1999 Proposal
on Findings of Significant Contribution and Rulemaking on
Section 126 Petitions for Purposes of Reducing Interstate
Ozone Transport**

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: The EPA is reopening the comment period for the proposed rulemaking under section 126 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) that was published on June 24, 1999 (64 FR 33962), regarding petitions submitted by eight Northeastern States for the purpose of mitigating transport of ozone. The June 24 proposal established a 45-day comment period, which ended on August 9. The EPA believes this provided an adequate opportunity to comment on the specific issues raised by the proposal. However, in response to two requests from the public, EPA is extending the comment period to August 25, 1999.

DATES: The EPA is reopening the comment period to end on August 25, 1999, which is 2 weeks after the date this notice was signed and made available on EPA's web sites identified below under SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION. Comments must be postmarked by the last day of the comment period and sent directly to the Docket Office listed in ADDRESSES (in duplicate form if possible).

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted to the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), Attention: Docket No. A-97-43, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW, room M-1500, Washington, DC 20460, telephone (202) 260-7548. Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by following the instructions under SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION of this document. No confidential business information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

Documents relevant to this action are available for inspection at the Docket Office, at the above address, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. A reasonable copying fee may be charged for copying.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions concerning today's action should be addressed to Carla Oldham, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Air Quality

Strategies and Standards Division, MD-15, Research Triangle Park, NC, 27711, telephone (919) 541-3347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background on June 24, 1999 Proposal

The June 24 action proposed to amend two aspects of the final rule, issued on April 30, 1999, regarding petitions submitted by eight Northeastern States for the purpose of mitigating transport of one of the main precursors of ground-level ozone, nitrogen oxides (NOX), across State boundaries (see 64 FR 28250, May 25, 1999). The proposal was necessary to address issues rising from two recent court rulings related to the 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard and the NOX State implementation plan call (NOX SIP call). The EPA is not reopening the remainder of the April 30 final rule for public comment and consideration.

Availability of Related Information

The official record for the section 126 rulemaking completed April 30, 1999, as well as the public version of the record, has been established under docket number A-97-43 (including comments and data submitted electronically as described below). The EPA has added a new section to that docket for purpose of the June 24 proposed rulemaking. The public version of this record, including printed, paper

versions of electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as CBI, is available for inspection from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The rulemaking record is located at the address in ADDRESSES at the beginning of this document. Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at: A-and-R-Docket@epa.gov. Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comments and data will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect 5.1/6.1/8.0 file format or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket number A-97-43. Electronic comments on the June 24, 1999 proposed rulemaking may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

In addition, the Federal Register rulemakings and associated documents are located at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/rto/126>. This notice of reopening the comment period was made immediately available after signature on that web site as well as on EPA's Airlinks web site at <http://www.epa.gov/airlinks>.

List of Subjects

40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Emissions trading, Nitrogen oxides, Ozone transport, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated:

Robert Perciasepe
Assistant Administrator, Air and Radiation