

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO AIR QUALITY STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 48-1-10 et seq.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (Department) is publishing this Notice of General Public Interest to provide interested persons the opportunity to comment on the Department's proposal to address required State Implementation Plan (SIP) elements under Section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) pertaining to interstate transport of criteria pollutants. This submission specifically addresses SIP elements covering any emissions activity in one state that contributes significantly to nonattainment (called prong 1), or interferes with maintenance (called prong 2), of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) in another state. Together, the prong 1 and 2 elements are referred to as "Good Neighbor" requirements, and the state's submittal is termed a "Good Neighbor SIP." To be considered, the Department must receive comments by 5:00 p.m. on May 29, 2018, the close of the comment period.

The Department is also providing the public with the opportunity to request a public hearing on the SIP submission. If requested, the Department will hold a public hearing on June 6, 2018, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 2151 of the Sims Building, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina. However, pursuant to 40 CFR 51.102, if the Department does not receive a request for a public hearing by the close of the comment period, 5:00 p.m. on May 29, 2018, the Department will cancel the public hearing. If the Department cancels the public hearing, then the Department will notify the public at least one week prior to the scheduled hearing via the Public Notices webpage: <http://www.scdhec.gov/PublicNotices/>.

Interested persons may also contact Anthony T. Lofton, Regulation and SIP Management Section, Bureau of Air Quality, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201; via phone at (803) 898-7217; or email at loftonat@dhec.sc.gov for more information, to view a copy of the state's proposed SIP submission, or to find out if the Department will hold the public hearing. A copy of the state's proposed SIP submission is also located on the Department's Public Notices webpage: <http://www.scdhec.gov/PublicNotices/>.

Synopsis:

On June 2, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a revised NAAQS for SO₂ (75 FR 35520, published June 22, 2010). With this rule, the EPA strengthened the health-based or "primary" standard for SO₂ by setting a new 1-hour primary SO₂ standard at the level of 75 parts per billion (ppb) and revoked the two previously existing primary standards of 140 ppb evaluated over 24-hours, and 30 ppb evaluated over an entire year. Sections 110(a)(1) and (2) of the CAA require all states to submit plans to provide for the implementation, maintenance, and enforcement of the NAAQS.

On January 9, 2018, the EPA published a Federal Register notice (83 FR 1098) for Round 3 of the 2010 SO₂ NAAQS designations. South Carolina was included in this round with designations of "Attainment/Unclassifiable" for all counties.

The Department is proposing to certify that it has addressed the aforementioned infrastructure SIP requirements for interstate transport pertaining to SO₂ for South Carolina, and that South Carolina's SIP contains adequate provisions to prevent sources or emissions activities within South Carolina from emitting SO₂ to a degree which contributes significantly to nonattainment in, or interferes with maintenance by, any other state with respect to the 2010 SO₂ 1-hour primary NAAQS for SO₂.