* * * Certainly, publication of the final federal (and Indian) gas valuation rule should be facilitated to the maximum extent possible.'' (b) '' * * * it would be extremely beneficial for MMS to publish its proposed rule implementing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) Order 636 as soon as possible because of its impact on and relationship to the federal gas valuation rule.''

Action Taken or Planned—For (a) above, we are in the process of finalizing the Indian gas valuation rule. As for the final **Federal Register** (62 FR 19536) that withdrew the proposed rule because of changes occurring in the gas market. MMS is developing a framework for offshore gas valuation and will conduct workshops to obtain constituent input. We will work with the States to develop an onshore perspective.

New language in the Act will cause a number of changes in the Payor Liability rule and the Administrative Offset and Limitations on Credit Adjustments rule. We are working to incorporate the effects of the Act in these rules.

For (b) above, the final rule implementing FERC Order 636 was published on December 16, 1997 (62 FR 65753).

Timetable—Ongoing.

10. The Appeals Process

Comments Received—''Current appeals process is too long.''

Action Taken or Planned—The Act imposed a 33-month time frame for the Department of the Interior to decide appeals involving royalties on Federal oil and gas leases. This deadline does not apply to appeals on royalties involving Indian leases and Federal leases for minerals other than oil and gas.

On October 28, 1996 (61 FR 55607), MMS published a proposed rule establishing a 16-month deadline for MMS to decide all appeals to the Director, including Indian leases and appeals for royalties on minerals other than oil and gas. After MMS's decision, the appellants can further appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. The comment period for this proposed rule ended on March 27, 1997.

The Royalty Policy Committee, a Federal Advisory Committee reporting to the Secretary, established a subcommittee of State, Indian, and industry representatives to study the appeals process. The Royalty Policy Committee reported its recommendations to the Secretary in March 1997, and the Secretary accepted the recommendations, with minor changes, in September 1997. The Department now is preparing a revised proposed rule to implement these recommendations.

Timetable—We plan to issue a revised Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the Administrative Appeals Process by late 1998, and a Notice of Final Rulemaking in 1999.

11. Valuation of Coal From Federal Leases

Comments Received—''* * * [A]mending this section to allow the use of the lessee's arm's length contracts to support the value for a nonarm's-length contract would make this section more effective and also eliminate the need to use third-party proprietary information in many instances.'' ''* * * [T]he use of the lessee's arm's-length contracts is the best evidence of the comparable value of any nonarm's-length sales by the lessee.''

Action Taken or Planned—The Royalty Policy Committee's Coal Subcommittee is reviewing issues related to coal valuation, and we will use the Royalty Policy Committee's recommendations to make improvements to the coal royalty valuation and reporting procedures and associated regulations.

Timetable—Ongoing.

12. Other MMS/Royalty Management Program Regulatory Actions

This past year we published proposed rules that would amend the valuation of oil produced from Federal and Indian leases and held a number of public meetings to receive input on the proposals. After analyzing the comments received, we plan to issue final rules in late 1998.

The Act expanded the authorities and responsibilities that the Secretary of the Interior may delegate to the States. To implement this, we published a final rule on August 12, 1997 (62 FR 43076), for Delegation of Royalty Management Functions to the States.

We invite you to comment on our existing regulations and also the actions we have taken in response to comments and enacted legislation. And, we invite you to stay further informed on many of the topics discussed in this status report by visiting the MMS Internet Website at www.mms.gov.

Cynthia Quarterman,

Director, Minerals Management Service

[FR Doc. 98–15626 Filed 6–11–98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[SIPTRAX NO. PA108–4073b; FRL–6107–5]

Proposed Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Source Specific Control Measures and a Revised Episode Plan for USX Clairton in the Liberty Borough PM–10 Nonattainment Area

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA proposes to approve the State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the State of Pennsylvania for the purpose of establishing control measures at USX's Clairton Coke Works in Clairton, Pennsylvania and enhancing the Allegheny County Health Department's (ACHD) episode plan by requiring that USX develop and maintain a source-specific episode plan subject to ACHD approval. In the Final Rules section of this **Federal Register**, EPA is approving the State's SIP revision as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial SIP revision and anticipates no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule and the technical support document for this rulemaking. If no adverse comments are received in response to this proposed rule, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this proposed rule. If EPA receives adverse comments, it will publish a document informing the public that the direct final rule did not take effect and EPA will address all public comments received in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. EPA will not institute a second comment period on this action. Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing by July 13, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Makeba Morris, Chief, Technical Assessment Branch, Mailcode 3AP22, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107. Copies of the documents relevant to this action are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Air Protection Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107; the Air and Radiation Docket and

Information Center, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460; and the Allegheny County Health Department, Bureau of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, 301 39th Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Denis M. Lohman, (215) 566–2192, or by e-mail at lohman.denny@epamail.epa.gov. While requests for information may be made via e-mail, comments for EPA consideration regarding this proposal must be submitted in writing to the address indicated above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: See the information provided in the Direct Final action of the same title (pertaining to source-specific requirements for the USX Clairton Coke Works in the Liberty Borough PM–10 nonattainment area) which is located in the Rules and Regulations Section of this **Federal Register**.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Incorporation by reference, Particulate matter.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.

Dated: May 28, 1998.

W. Michael McCabe,

Regional Administrator, Region III.

[FR Doc. 98–15584 Filed 6–11–98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[SIPTRAX PA039/067–4072; FRL–6107–9]

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania: Attainment Demonstration and Contingency Measures for the Liberty Borough PM–10 Nonattainment Area

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule and withdrawal of proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is proposing to approve state implementation plan (SIP) revisions submitted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) consisting of an attainment demonstration and contingency measures for Allegheny County, Pennsylvania's Liberty Borough particulate matter nonattainment area. In fact, EPA is reproposing to approve the attainment demonstration because the Allegheny County Health Department's (ACHD) modeling analysis (submitted as a SIP revision by PADEP) adequately demonstrates that the regulatory portion of the attainment plan is sufficient to attain and maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter that was in effect at the time of the submittal, and because its analyses have been corroborated by monitored air quality data. EPA is proposing to approve the contingency measures for the area because they satisfy the requirements of the Clean Air Act (the Act). EPA approved the regulatory portion of the attainment plan for the Liberty Borough area as a SIP revision in an earlier rulemaking action.

Because EPA is reproposing approval of the attainment demonstration portion of the attainment plan for the Liberty Borough area, it is withdrawing its earlier April 11, 1995 (60 FR 18385) proposal to approve the County's attainment demonstration. Any interested parties who would like to comment on EPA's reproposal to approve the attainment demonstration and its proposal to approve the contingency measures for the Liberty Borough area should do so at this time by following the directions below.

Elsewhere in the Proposed Rules section of today's **Federal Register**, EPA is also proposing to find that the Liberty Borough area has attained the NAAQS for particulate matter and is withdrawing an earlier proposal to find that the area did not attain the NAAQS. In the Final Rules section of today's **Federal Register**, EPA is taking direct final action to approve source-specific control requirements for the USX Clairton Coke Works which further strengthen the SIP for Liberty Borough area.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 13, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Makeba Morris, Chief, Technical Assessment Branch, Mailcode 3AP22, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107. Copies of the documents relevant to this action are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Air Protection Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107; the Allegheny County Health Department, Department of Air Quality, 301 39th Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15201; and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Air Quality, P.O. Box 8468, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Denis M. Lohman, (215) 566–2192, or by e-mail at lohman.denny@epamail.epa.gov. While requests for information may be made via e-mail, comments for EPA consideration regarding this proposal must be submitted in writing to the address indicated above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On January 6, 1994, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) submitted an attainment plan to EPA on behalf of Allegheny County for the Liberty Borough PM–10 nonattainment area.[1] (PM–10 is particulate matter smaller than 10 microns in diameter.) The purpose of this revision to the PADEP's SIP is to fulfill the requirements under section 189 of the Act for a regulatory plan to attain the PM–10 NAAQS and to submit a demonstration (including air quality modeling) that the plan is sufficient to attain this goal. These ''Part D'' requirements are described in more detail in the technical support document (TSD) to this rulemaking. Copies of the TSD are available, upon request, from the EPA Regional office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document.

On April 11, 1995, EPA proposed to approve the January 1994 attainment plan submittal, as well as two SIP revisions that the Commonwealth had submitted previously (see 60 FR 18385). The attainment plan consisted of regulatory requirements to reduce PM–10 emissions and an attainment demonstration. After EPA proposed to approve the demonstration, the County reported that the PM–10 NAAQS had been exceeded twice in March of 1995. These exceedances called the County's attainment demonstration into question, and, although EPA took final action[2] to approve the regulatory portion of the attainment plan (which included limits on a variety of industrial sources), to make these regulations part of the SIP and federally enforceable, EPA took no action on the attainment demonstration at that time.

On July 12, 1995, PADEP submitted contingency measures to EPA for the Liberty Borough area. Contingency measures, as required by section 172(c)(9) of the Act, are enforceable emission limitations and/or emission reduction measures, beyond what was

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[1] The Liberty Borough PM–10 nonattainment area is comprised of the City of Clairton and the Boroughs of Glassport, Liberty, Lincoln, and Port Vue.

[2] See 61 FR 29664.