List of Requests for Comment
on EPA's Proposed Rule, "National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter,"
77 *Federal Register* 38890 to 39055 (June 29, 2012)

Note: You may comment on any aspect of the proposal. However, the EPA has specifically requested comments on a number of issues associated with the proposed rule. To help you as you prepare your comments, EPA has summarized these issues below and included the Federal Register page number for reference. EPA will accept written comments on the proposed rule until August 31, 2012.

Primary Standards for Fine Particles (Section III)

- Alternative approaches to weighing the evidence and other information to inform public health policy judgments on appropriate standard levels (77 FR 38941; 77 FR 38943)
- Revising the level of the annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard within a range of 12 to 13 $\mu g/m^3$ or alternatively to a level down to 11 $\mu g/m^3$ as well as on approaches for translating scientific evidence and rationales that would support such a level (77 FR 38942 to 38943)
- Retaining the level of the 24-hour standard at 35 $\mu g/m^3$ (77 FR 38943)
- The combination of annual and 24-hour standards that commenters may believe is appropriate, along with the approaches and rationales used to support such levels (77 FR 38942 to 38943)
- Specifically, given the importance the evidence from epidemiologic studies plays in considering the appropriate annual and 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ standard levels, public comment is requested on issues related to translating the epidemiological evidence into standards, including approaches for addressing the uncertainties and limitations associated with this evidence (77 FR 38942 to 38944).
- Revising the form of the annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard to base the standard on the highest community-oriented monitor in an area and to eliminate spatial averaging (77 FR 38925)

Primary Standard for Coarse Particles (Section IV)

- Retaining the current 24-hour PM_{10} standard at a level of 150 $\mu g/m^3$ with a one expected exceedance form (77 FR 38963)
- The Agency welcomes the public's views on different approaches to considering and accounting for the evidence and its limitations and uncertainties, as well as on the appropriateness of revising the primary PM_{10} standard, including revising the form and level of the standard (77 FR 38963)
- The rationale for reaching the provisional conclusion that the current PM_{10} standard is requisite to protect public health with an adequate margin of safety and the provisional conclusion that it is not appropriate to revise the current PM_{10} standard by setting a ''generally equivalent'' standard with the goal of better targeting public health protection (77 FR 38963)

Air Quality Index (AQI) (Section V)

- Alternative approaches and the level at which to set the AQI value of 100 together with any supporting rationale (77 FR 38964)
- Retaining the current level of 500 $\mu g/m^3$ for the AQI value of 500 and on alternative approaches and the level at which to set the AQI value of 500 together with any supporting information and rationales for such alternative levels. The EPA also solicits any additional information, data, research or analyses that may be useful to inform a final decision on the appropriate level to set the AQI value of 500 (77 FR 38965).

Secondary Standards (Section VI)

- Setting a distinct secondary standard to address PM-related visibility, specifically:
    - All aspects of the proposed indicator defined in terms of a $PM_{2.5}$ visibility index, which would use speciated $PM_{2.5}$ mass concentrations and relative humidity data to calculate $PM_{2.5}$ light extinction (77 FR 38984; 77 FR 38999)
        - Using a $PM_{2.5}$ visibility index rather than a PM_{10} visibility index which would include an additional term for coarse particles
        - Using the original IMPROVE algorithm or alternatively using the revised IMPROVE algorithm
        - Using alternative values for the organic carbon multiplier in conjunction with either the original or revised IMPROVE algorithm
        - Using historical monthly, seasonal, or regional speciation averages
        - Alternative approaches to determining relative humidity
    - Establishing a 24-hour averaging time or alternatively, in light of the desirability of a sub-daily averaging time, setting a sub-daily (e.g., 4-hour) averaging time and related data quality issues associated with currently available monitoring instrumentation (77 FR 38987)
        - In conjunction with an hourly or multi-hour indicator, variations on the simplified approaches discussed in the preamble and on other approaches that may be appropriate to consider for such an indicator (77 FR 38984)
    - Using the public preference studies, including consideration of the associated strengths and limitations and uncertainties of these studies, to inform the establishment of a standard level that provides an appropriate degree of public welfare protection when combined with the other elements of the standard (i.e. indicator, form and averaging time) (77 FR 38990 to 38991), specifically:
        - Considering the extent to which the 50 percent acceptability criterion is an appropriate basis for establishing target protection levels
        - Weighing particular aspects of the study designs
            - Considering the extent to which the study participants may be representative of the broader study area population
            - Considering the ranges of visual air quality levels presented to participants in each of the studies and how they may have influenced the study results
    - Establishing a level set at one of two options – either 30 or 28 deciviews (dv) and on the various approaches to identifying generally equivalent levels discussed in the preamble upon which the alternative proposed levels are based; in addition, alternative levels down to 25 dv in conjunction with a 24-hour averaging time (77 FR 38991; 77 FR 38999)
    - Alternatively, in conjunction with a sub-daily (e.g., 4-hour) averaging time, setting a standard level within a range of 30 to 25 dv (77 FR 38991; 77 FR 38999)
- Retaining the current secondary $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} standards, generally, while proposing to revise the form of the secondary annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard to remove the option for spatial averaging consistent with this proposed change to the primary annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard (77 FR 38999 to 39000)

Data Handling (Section VII)

- Appropriateness of combining "non-primary" (i.e., collocated) Federal Equivalent Method (FEM) data with the primary data for comparison to the $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS (77 FR 39001)
- Eliminating the special 98th percentile formula for sites operating on a seasonal sampling schedule (77 FR 39002)
- All aspects of the calculation of the $PM_{2.5}$ visibility index (77 FR 39003)
- Whether data substitution tests should be included for $PM_{2.5}$ visibility index design values similar to those used for the mass-based $PM_{2.5}$ standards (77 FR 39004)
- Modifying the schedule for exceptional event data flagging and documentation submission deadlines (77 FR 39005, Table 3)

Monitoring (Section VIII)

- $PM_{2.5}$ Speciation
    - Using CSN and IMPROVE measurements by reference to support the proposed distinct secondary standard to address PM-related visibility impairment rather than requiring such methods to be approved as Federal Reference Methods (FRMs) (77 FR 39006 to 39007)
    - Requiring each state with a CBSA over 1 million to measure $PM_{2.5}$ chemical species based on CSN or IMPROVE methods, in at least one of its CBSAs (77 FR 39013 to 39014)
        - Allowing states to request an alternative location for their CSN measurements (77 FR 39013)
    - Extending the existing probe and monitoring path siting criteria for PM to the speciation measurements (77 FR 39015)
- Including a near-road component in the $PM_{2.5}$ monitoring network design criteria for CBSAs of 1 million persons or greater, with at least one $PM_{2.5}$ monitor collocated with near-road NO_2 and CO monitors by January 15, 2015 (77 FR 39009 to 39011)
    - Moving $PM_{2.5}$ monitors from single pollutant locations to multipollutant locations in the near-road environment, thus encouraging efficiencies in operation by monitoring agencies (77 FR 39011)
    - Any alternative strategies that would provide comparable long-term characterization of $PM_{2.5}$ in area-wide locations of maximum concentrations in the absences of a specific near-road compliance requirement for monitoring $PM_{2.5}$ (77 FR 39011)
    - Encouraging measurements of other PM properties relevant to the near-road environment (e.g., ultrafines, black carbon) to support research efforts (77 FR 39010) including priorities for collecting this supplemental information and the interests of monitoring agencies (or other parties) to collect these measurements (77 FR 39011)
    - Requiring probe and siting criteria for the near-road $PM_{2.5}$ monitor sites to follow the same criteria used for the NO_2 near-road monitoring sites (77 FR 39015)
- Allowing monitoring agencies to recommend when $PM_{2.5}$ continuous FEM data should not be used for comparison to the NAAQS (77 FR 39011 to 39012)
- Revoking $PM_{10-2.5}$ speciation requirements at NCore sites (77 FR 39012 to 39013)

- Allowing waivers, when approved by the EPA Regional Administrator, of up to 10 meters for the maximum allowable distance for collocated $PM_{2.5}$ samplers and monitors (77 FR 39015)
- Ways to improve the periodic assessments of the monitoring network plans performed by state and local monitoring agencies, specifically ways to streamline or add additional criteria for future assessments (77 FR 39015)
- Changing the required operating schedule for the $PM_{2.5}$ SLAMS (77 FR 39016)
- Reporting and certification schedules for chemical speciation data (77 FR 39016)
- Extending the filter archival requirement from one to five years, but only requiring cold storage during the first year (77 FR 39016)

Implementation (Section IX)

Comments requested as part of the NAAQS Proposal

- Whether the proposed grandfathering provision for pending PSD permit applications should include a sunset clause, and if so, what time limits would be appropriate (77 FR 39024)
- Using a surrogate approach for the purpose of making a demonstration under the PSD program that a new or modified source will not cause or contribute to a violation of the proposed secondary standard if the source makes a demonstration that it will not cause or contribute to a violation of the mass-based 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ standard (77 FR 39025 to39027)
    - All aspects of the proposed surrogacy approach including the issues and proposed alternative implementation mechanisms identified in the preamble as well as the technical analysis supporting this approach
    - Whether or not an end date for using the surrogacy approach is needed

Comments Requested for Subsequent Rules/Guidance

NOTE: The proposed rule provided background information and described the EPA's current perspectives on a number of implementation issues related to the proposed NAAQS revisions. Public comment was requested on several issues that the Agency anticipates will need to be addressed in future guidance or regulatory actions. While the EPA does not expect to respond to comments on these issues in the final action on the proposed NAAQS, the Agency expects these comments will be helpful as future guidance and regulations are developed.

- All aspects of the designation process (77 FR 39018)
    - Establishing nonattainment area boundaries for the proposed revised primary annual $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS and the proposed secondary $PM_{2.5}$ visibility index NAAQS, including any relevant technical information that should be considered by the EPA, and any input on the extent to which different considerations may be relevant to establishing boundaries for a secondary $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS (77 FR 39017)
- All aspects of the infrastructure SIPs, in particular, the timing of infrastructure SIP submittals, specifically whether states prefer the flexibility to submit the secondary NAAQS infrastructure SIP at a later date than the primary NAAQS infrastructure SIP (77 FR 39018 to 39019)
- Appropriateness of establishing classification categories for areas designated nonattainment and how such a classification system could be designed (77 FR 39019 to 39020)
- Implementation issues addressed in the 1997 $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS implementation rule that should be considered for updating (77 FR 39020)

- Specific attainment planning considerations for future SIPs that may be associated with the proposed changes to the monitoring provisions (discussed in section VIII) (77 FR 39021)
- Planning for a transition period to provide enough time to complete action on attainment and maintenance SIPS for the 1997 and 2006 $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS and on an appropriate date by which the transition period would end (77 FR 39021)
- Information concerning air quality modeling and other issues that are expected to be unique to implementing the proposed secondary $PM_{2.5}$ visibility index standard in nonattainment areas (77 FR 39022)
- Need for and justification for any new or revised significant emissions rates (SERs), significant impact levels (SILs) and significant modeling concentrations (SMC) as screening tools to facilitate the implementation of the new source review (NSR) program (77 FR 39027 to 39028)
- Types of additional ambient data, if any, that may need to be collected by a proposed source concerning the proposed secondary $PM_{2.5}$ visibility index standard, and the feasibility of individual sources being required to gather such additional information for the NSR program (77 FR 39028)
- Whether it is appropriate to consider revising the $PM_{2.5}$ PSD increments (77 FR 39028)
- Whether it is appropriate to apply the nonattainment new source review (NNSR) program requirements for any pollutant that is designated nonattainment for at least one averaging period or at least one primary or secondary NAAQS for a particular pollutant (77 FR 39029 to 39029)

Other:

- Relevant studies that should be included in EPA's provisional assessment of new science on PM (77 FR 38899)
- General, specific, and technical comments on all issues involved with this proposal, including all such proposed decisions and provisional conclusions, findings, and determinations described in the preamble (77 FR 38899)
- Impacts on small entities (77 FR 39031)
- State and local officials' comments (77 FR 39031)
- Tribal officials' comments (77 FR 39031)
- Comments or peer-reviewed studies and data that assess effects of early life exposure to PM (77 FR 39031) or that assess effects of PM on low-income populations and minority populations (77 FR 39032 to 39033)
- Voluntary consensus standards (77 FR 39032)