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Periodic Review Report of Findings

Agency name	State Air Pollution Control Board
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation	9VAC5-130 (Regulation for Open Burning)
Regulation title	Regulations for the Control and Abatement of Air Pollution
Date this document prepared	December 2, 2019

This information is required for executive branch review and the Virginia Registrar of Regulations, pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), Executive Order 14 (as amended, July 16, 2018), the Regulations for Filing and Publishing Agency Regulations (1 VAC7-10), and the *Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual for Publication of Virginia Regulations*.

Acronyms and Definitions

Please define all acronyms used in this Report. Also, please define any technical terms that are used in the document that are not also defined in the "Definition" section of the regulations.

CAA- Clean Air Act

CFR- Code of Federal Regulations

CTG- control technology guidelines

EPA- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

RACT - reasonably available control technology

VOCs- volatile organic compounds

Legal Basis

Please identify (1) the agency or other promulgating entity, and (2) the state and/or federal legal authority for the regulatory change, including the most relevant citations to the Code of Virginia or Acts of Assembly chapter number(s), if applicable. Your citation must include a specific provision, if any, authorizing the promulgating entity to regulate this specific subject or program, as well as a reference to the agency or promulgating entity's overall regulatory authority.

Section 10.1-1308 of the Virginia Air Pollution Control Law (Title 10.1, Chapter 13 of the Code of Virginia) authorizes the State Air Pollution Control Board to promulgate regulations abating, controlling and prohibiting air pollution in order to protect public health and welfare.

Promulgating Entity

The promulgating entity for this regulation is the State Air Pollution Control Board.

Federal Requirements

Section 110(a) of the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) mandates that each state adopt and submit to EPA a plan which provides for the implementation, maintenance, and enforcement of each primary and

secondary air quality standard within each air quality control region in the state. The plan shall include provisions to accomplish, among other tasks, the following:

1. Establish enforceable emission limitations and other control measures as necessary to comply with the provisions of the CAA, including economic incentives such as fees, marketable permits, and auctions of emissions rights;
2. Establish schedules for compliance;
3. Prohibit emissions which would contribute to nonattainment of the standards or interference with maintenance of the standards by any state; and
4. Require sources of air pollution to install, maintain, and replace monitoring equipment as necessary and to report periodically on emissions-related data.

40 CFR Part 51 sets out requirements for the preparation, adoption, and submittal of state implementation plans. These requirements mandate that any such plan shall include several provisions, including those summarized below.

Subpart G of Part 51 (Control Strategy) specifies the description of control measures and schedules for implementation, the description of emissions reductions estimates sufficient to attain and maintain the standards, time periods for demonstrations of the control strategy's adequacy, an emissions inventory, an air quality data summary, data availability, special requirements for lead emissions, stack height provisions, and intermittent control systems.

Subpart K of Part 51 (Source Surveillance) specifies procedures for emissions reports and record-keeping, procedures for testing, inspection, enforcement, and complaints, transportation control measures, and procedures for continuous emissions monitoring.

Subpart L of Part 51 (Legal Authority) specifies that the state implementation plan must show that the state has legal authority to implement the plans, including the authority to:

1. Adopt emission standards and limitations and any other measures necessary for the attainment and maintenance of the national ambient air quality standards;
2. Enforce applicable laws, regulations, and standards, and seek injunctive relief;
3. Abate pollutant emissions on an emergency basis to prevent substantial endangerment to the health of persons;
4. Prevent construction, modification, or operation of a facility, building, structure, or installation, or combination thereof, which directly or indirectly results or may result in emissions of any air pollutant at any location which will prevent the attainment or maintenance of a national standard;
5. Obtain information necessary to determine whether air pollution sources are in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and standards, including authority to require record-keeping and to make inspections and conduct tests of air pollution sources;
6. Require owners or operators of stationary sources to install, maintain, and use emission monitoring devices and to make periodic reports to the state on the nature and amounts of emissions from such stationary sources; and
7. Make emissions data available to the public as reported and as correlated with any applicable emission standards or limitations.

Section 51.231 under Subpart L requires the identification of legal authority: (i) the provisions of law or regulation which the state determines provide the authorities required under this section must be specifically identified, and copies of such laws or regulations must be submitted with the plan; and (ii) the plan must show that the legal authorities specified in this subpart are available to the state at the time of submission of the plan.

Subpart N of Part 51 (Compliance Schedules) specifies legally enforceable compliance schedules, final compliance schedule dates, and conditions for extensions beyond one year.

Part D of the CAA specifies state implementation plan requirements for nonattainment areas, with Subpart 1 covering nonattainment areas in general and Subpart 2 covering additional provisions for ozone nonattainment areas.

Section 171 of the CAA defines "reasonable further progress," "nonattainment area," "lowest achievable emission rate," and "modification."

Section 172(a) of the CAA authorizes EPA to classify nonattainment areas for the purpose of assigning attainment dates. Section 172(b) authorizes EPA to establish schedules for the submission of plans designed to achieve attainment by the specified dates. Section 172(c) specifies the provisions to be included in each attainment plan, as follows:

1. The implementation of all reasonably available control measures as expeditiously as practicable and shall provide for the attainment of the national ambient air quality standards;
2. The requirement of reasonable further progress;
3. A comprehensive, accurate, current inventory of actual emissions from all sources of the relevant pollutants in the nonattainment area;
4. An identification and quantification of allowable emissions from the construction and modification of new and modified major stationary sources in the nonattainment area;
5. The requirement for permits for the construction and operations of new and modified major stationary sources in the nonattainment area;
6. The inclusion of enforceable emission limitations and such other control measures (including economic incentives such as fees, marketable permits, and auctions of emission rights) as well as schedules for compliance;
7. If applicable, the proposal of equivalent modeling, emission inventory, or planning procedures; and
8. The inclusion of specific contingency measures to be undertaken if the nonattainment area fails to make reasonable further progress or to attain the national ambient air quality standards by the attainment date.

Section 172(d) of the CAA requires that attainment plans be revised if EPA finds inadequacies. Section 172(e) authorizes the issuance of requirements for nonattainment areas in the event of a relaxation of any national ambient air quality standard. Such requirements shall provide for controls which are not less stringent than the controls applicable to these same areas before such relaxation.

Under Part D, Subpart 2 of the CAA, §182(a)(2)(A) requires that the existing regulatory program requiring reasonably available control technology (RACT) for stationary sources of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in marginal nonattainment areas be corrected by May 15, 1991, to meet the minimum requirements in existence prior to the enactment of the 1990 amendments. RACT is the lowest emission limit that a particular source is capable of meeting by the application of control technology that is reasonably available considering technological and economic feasibility. EPA has published control technology guidelines (CTGs) for various types of sources, thereby defining the minimum acceptable control measure or RACT for a particular source type.

Section 182(b) of the CAA requires stationary sources in moderate nonattainment areas to comply with the requirements for sources in marginal nonattainment areas. The additional, more comprehensive control measures in §182(b)(2)(A) require that each category of VOC sources employ RACT if the source is covered by a CTG document issued between enactment of the 1990 amendments and the attainment date for the nonattainment area. Section 182(b)(2)(B) requires that existing stationary sources emitting VOCs for which a CTG existed prior to adoption of the 1990 amendments also employ RACT.

Section 182(c) of the CAA requires stationary sources in serious nonattainment areas to comply with the requirements for sources in both marginal and moderate nonattainment areas.

EPA has issued detailed guidance that sets out its preliminary views on the implementation of the air quality planning requirements applicable to nonattainment areas: the "General Preamble for the Implementation of Title I of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990" See 57 FR 13498 (April 16, 1992) and 57 FR 18070 (April 28, 1992). The General Preamble has been supplemented with further guidance on Title I requirements. For this subject, the guidance provides little more than a summary and reiteration of the provisions of the Act.

State Requirements

This specific regulation is not required by state mandate. Rather, Virginia's Air Pollution Control Law gives the State Air Pollution Control Board the discretionary authority to promulgate regulations "abating, controlling and prohibiting air pollution throughout or in any part of the Commonwealth" (§ 10.1-1308). The law defines such air pollution as "the presence in the outdoor atmosphere of one or more substances which are or may be harmful or injurious to human health, welfare or safety, to animal or plant life, or to property, or which unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment by the people or life or property" (§ 10.1-1300). Excess emissions from open burning are harmful to human health and can significantly interfere with the people's enjoyment of life and property.

Specifically, § 10.1-1308 provides that the board shall have the power to promulgate regulations abating, controlling, and prohibiting air pollution throughout or in any part of the Commonwealth in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Process Act. It further provides that no such regulation shall prohibit the burning of leaves from trees by persons on property where they reside if the local governing body of the county, city or town has enacted an otherwise valid ordinance regulating such burning.

Alternatives

Please describe any viable alternatives for achieving the purpose of the regulation that were considered as part of the periodic review. Include an explanation of why such alternatives were rejected and why this regulation is the least burdensome alternative available for achieving its purpose.

Alternatives to the proposal have been considered by the department. The department has determined that the retention of the regulation (the first alternative) is appropriate, as it is the least burdensome and least intrusive alternative that fully meets statutory requirements and the purpose of the regulation. The alternatives considered by the department, along with the reasoning by which the department has rejected any of the alternatives considered, are discussed below.

1. Retain the regulation without amendment. This option is being selected because the current regulation provides the least onerous means of complying with the minimum requirements of the legal mandates.
2. Make alternative regulatory changes to those required by the provisions of the legally binding state and federal mandates, and associated regulations and policies. This option was not selected because it could result in the imposition of requirements that place unreasonable hardships on the regulated community without justifiable benefits to public health and welfare.
3. Repeal the regulation or amend it to satisfy the provisions of legally binding state and federal mandates. This option was not selected because the regulation is effective in meeting its goals and already satisfies those mandates.

Public Comment

Please summarize all comments received during the public comment period following the publication of the Notice of Periodic Review, and provide the agency response. Ensure to include all comments submitted: including those received on Town Hall, in a public hearing, or submitted directly to the agency or board. Please indicate if an informal advisory group was formed for purposes of assisting in the periodic review.

No public comments were received during the comment period. An informal advisory group was not formed for purposes of this periodic review.

Effectiveness

Pursuant to § 2.2-4017, please indicate whether the regulation meets the criteria set out in Executive Order 14 (as amended, July 16, 2018), including why the regulation is (a) necessary for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare, and (b) is clearly written and easily understandable.

This regulation enhances the Department's ability to ensure compliance with all applicable federal requirements under the CAA and both general and specific requirements under the state code.

The regulation is necessary for the protection of public health and welfare, as it is needed to meet the following goals:

1. To protect public health and welfare with the least possible cost and intrusiveness to the citizens and businesses of the Commonwealth;
2. To reduce VOC emissions in Virginia's ozone nonattainment areas to facilitate the attainment and maintenance of the air quality standards;
3. To require that open burning be conducted in a manner as to prevent the release of air pollutants; and
4. To provide a mechanism for the adoption of local ordinances to administer open burning locally in accordance with state law and regulation.

The regulation is necessary for the protection of public health and welfare, as it is needed to meet the primary goals of the CAA and the Virginia Air Pollution Control Law.

The regulation has been effective in protecting public health and welfare with the least possible cost and intrusiveness to the citizens and businesses of the Commonwealth.

The Department has determined that the regulation is clearly written and easily understandable by the individuals and entities affected. It is written so as to permit only one reasonable interpretation, is written to adequately identify the affected entity, and, insofar as possible, is written in non-technical language.

Decision

Please explain the basis for the rulemaking entity's decision (retain the regulation as is without making changes, amend the regulation, or repeal the regulation).

This regulation satisfies the provisions of the law and legally binding state and federal requirements, and is effective in meeting its goals; therefore, the regulation is being retained without amendment.

Small Business Impact

As required by § 2.2-4007.1 E and F of the Code of Virginia, include a discussion of the agency's consideration of: (1) the continued need for the regulation; (2) the nature of complaints or comments received concerning the regulation from the public; (3) the complexity of the regulation; (4) the extent to which the regulation overlaps, duplicates, or conflicts with federal or state law or regulation; and (5) the length of time since the regulation has been evaluated or the degree to which technology, economic conditions, or other factors have changed in the area affected by the regulation. Also, discuss why the agency's decision, consistent with the stated objectives of applicable law, will minimize the economic impact of regulations on small businesses.

This regulation continues to be needed. It provides sources with the most cost-effective means of fulfilling ongoing state and federal requirements that protect air quality.

There were no comments received that requested a change to the regulation.

The regulation's level of complexity is appropriate to ensure that the regulated entity is able to meet its legal mandate as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible.

This regulation does not overlap, duplicate, or conflict with any state law or other state regulation.

This regulation was last updated in 2012. Over time, it generally becomes less expensive to characterize, measure, and mitigate the regulated pollutants that contribute to poor air quality. This regulation continues to provide the most efficient and cost-effective means to determine the level and impact of excess emissions and to control those excess emissions.

The department, through examination of the regulation, has determined that the regulatory requirements currently minimize the economic impact of emission control regulations on small businesses and thereby minimize the impact on existing and potential Virginia employers and their ability to maintain and increase the number of jobs in the Commonwealth.

Family Impact

Please assess the potential impact of the regulation's impact on the institution of the family and family stability.

This regulation does not have a direct impact on the institution of the family and family stability.