PART 52—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 52 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q.

Subpart G—Colorado

2. Section 52.322 is added to read as follows:

§ 52.322 Extensions.

The Administrator, by authority delegated under section 188(d) of the Clean Air Act, as amended in 1990, extends for one year (until December 31, 1995) the attainment date for the Denver, Colorado, PM–10 nonattainment area.

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40 CFR Part 58

[FRL-5304-9]

RIN 2060-AF88

Ambient Air Quality Surveillance Siting Criteria for Open Path Analyzers

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is amending its regulations to define the appropriate ambient air monitoring criteria for open path (long-path) analyzers. These revisions to the Ambient Air Quality Surveillance regulations define the siting requirements for open path analyzers used as State and Local Air Monitoring Stations (SLAMS), National Air Monitoring Stations (NAMS) and Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations (PAMS), as well as general quality assurance procedures for this technology. These changes provide the ambient air monitoring community with criteria needed to effectively use open path analyzers and associated data for regulatory purposes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This final rule and all contained regulatory changes except for appendix D, section 2.2, are effective on October 6, 1995. The 40 CFR part 58, appendix D, section 2.2 requirements are not effective until the Office of Management and Budget approves the information requirements contained in them and the EPA publishes a document announcing their approval in the Federal Register.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the comments received on the notice of proposed rulemaking, supporting documentation, and the response to public comments document may be obtained from: Air Docket (LE–131), Attention: Docket Number A-93-44, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, room M-1500, 401 M Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20460. Docket Number A-93-44, containing supporting information used in developing these revised regulations, is available for public inspection and copying between 8:30 a.m. and 12 noon, and between 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the EPA's Air Docket Section at the address noted above. As provided in 40 CFR part 2, a reasonable fee may be charged for copying.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lee Ann B. Byrd (919) 541–5367, Monitoring and Quality Assurance Group (MD–14), Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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- I. Authority

Sections 110, 301(a), 313, and 319 of the Clean Air Act as amended 42 U.S.C. 7410, 7601(a), 7613, 7619.

II. Background

A new technique for monitoring pollutants in ambient air has been developed and introduced to the EPA. Instruments based on this new technique, called open path (or longpath) analyzers, use ultraviolet, visible, or infrared light to measure nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and other gaseous pollutant concentrations over a path of several meters up to several kilometers. The measurements obtained by these open path analyzers are path-integrated values from which path-averaged concentrations are obtained. In contrast, traditional point analyzers measure pollutant concentrations at one specific point by extracting an air sample from the atmosphere through an inlet probe.

Due to the fundamental difference in the measurement principles of open path and point analyzers, there may be tradeoffs in using each type of instrument for certain applications. Because of the ability of open path analyzers to measure pollutant concentrations over a path, these new techniques are expected to provide better spatial coverage, and thereby a better assessment of a general population's exposure to air pollutants for certain applications. However, due to this same path-averaging characteristic, open path analyzers could underestimate high pollutant concentrations at specific points within the measurement path for other ambient air monitoring situations. The applicability of either technique to a particular monitoring scenario is dependent on a number of factors including plume dispersion characteristics, monitoring location, pollutant of interest, population density, site topography, and monitoring objective. The EPA has considered these factors in evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of using open path analyzers for the various ambient air monitoring applications detailed in 40 CFR part 58.

The EPA has assessed the performance of an open path analyzer as candidate equivalent methods for measuring ozone, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide under part 53. This open path analyzer was formally designated as an equivalent method for each of the three pollutants in a Federal Register notice, volume 60, number 84 on May 2, 1995. In parallel with this effort, the EPA developed these part 58 siting and quality assurance criteria for open path analyzers, which were published on August 18, 1994 as a notice of proposed rulemaking.

The intended purpose of these revisions to part 58 is to define first the conceptual framework of network design and siting which is equally relevant to open path and point types of ambient air monitoring sites, followed by the practical implications that flow from the conceptual approach. Comments received in response to the notice of proposed rulemaking have been carefully considered. Improvements to the network design and siting criteria were identified from these comments, and, as appropriate,