proposes to accept this preliminary information and grant a temporary waiver of the moderate area attainment date to allow Ecology and EPA to evaluate further the Wallula nonattainment area. Once the evaluation is completed, and/or the temporary waiver expires, EPA will make a final determination on the plan for the Wallula nonattainment area, including the applicability of a permanent waiver for the area.

The preliminary information presented by Ecology to date indicates that windblown dust from both anthropogenic and nonanthropogenic sources are impacting the Columbia Plateau geographic area which includes most of eastern Washington as well as northern Idaho and northeastern Oregon. In addition, the primary sources causing exceedences of the PM-10 standard may be many miles outside of the currently designated nonattainment areas in the Columbia Plateau region. Additional monitoring has been initiated in the region to evaluate further the extent of the problem. Extensive analysis is being done to distinguish anthropogenic sources from

nonanthropogenic sources.

If granted, the proposed temporary waiver will extend the attainment date to December 31, 1997. The temporary three-year waiver will provide Ecology and EPA sufficient time to determine conclusively the significance of anthropogenic and nonanthropogenic PM-10 sources that are impacting the area. As required in the EPA guidance, Ecology and EPA are proceeding under a written agreement which sets out the protocol for both technical analysis (emission inventory, emission factor development, dispersion modeling, receptor modeling, etc.) and evaluation of alternative control measures, including Best Available Control Measures. The activities required under the protocol are generally referred to as the Columbia Plateau PM-10 Project funded by EPA, Ecology and USDA. Cooperating agencies include USDA's Agricultural Research Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service, as well as several local conservation districts, Washington State University the University of Idaho, and others. Once the technical information from this project is finalized, EPA will determine if a permanent waiver of the attainment date is appropriate for the Wallula area or if the area should be reclassified as a serious PM-10 nonattainment area.

The temporary waiver of the attainment date, if finalized by EPA, will defer approval/disapproval actions on several otherwise required elements

of the moderate area plan for Wallula. The submission of the attainment demonstration, emission inventory, and contingency measures will be deferred. EPA will take final action on these elements after the analysis is completed and/or the expiration of the temporary waiver along with a decision on the eligibility of the area for a permanent waiver. EPA's reasoning for this approach is described in more detail under the various SIP element headings of this notice.

The Wallula plan was submitted to EPA on November 15, 1991. Ecology also submitted additional information on May 18, 1993 which further described the control measures being implemented in the area (letter from Joseph R. Williams to Jim McCormick, forwarding a report titled, "Addendum to the State Implementation Plan for the Wallula PM-10 Nonattainment Area, Reasonably Available Control Measure Analysis", undated). Additional information describing the status of the control measures and forwarding an analysis of windblown dust in the area was submitted on June 23, 1994 (letter from Joseph R. Williams to Jim McCormick). In a June 1, 1995, letter Ecology provided information on allowable emissions. Finally, Ecology forwarded a revised emission inventory for point sources within the nonattainment area on September 6, 1995 (letter from Joseph R. Williams to Michael A. Bussell).

EPA is proposing to approve the exclusion from precursor controls as described in part II. 5 below. EPA invites public comment on the proposed action described in this section.

A. Analysis of State Submission

1. Procedural Background

The Act requires States to observe certain procedural requirements in developing implementation plans and plan revisions for submission to EPA. Section 110(a)(2) of the Act provides that each implementation plan submitted by a State must be adopted after reasonable notice and public hearing.³ Section 110(l) of the Act similarly provides that each revision to an implementation plan submitted by a State under the Act must be adopted by such State after reasonable notice and public hearing. The EPA also must determine whether a submittal is complete and therefore warrants further EPA review and action (see section 110(k)(1) and 57 FR 13565). The EPA's completeness criteria for SIP submittals

are set out at 40 CFR Part 51, Appendix V (1992). The EPA attempts to make completeness determinations within 60 days of receiving a submission. However, a submittal is deemed complete by operation of law if a completeness determination is not made by EPA six months after receipt of the submission.

Ecology held a public hearing to receive public comment on the Wallula implementation plan on October 23, 1991. WDOE adopted the implementation plan for the area on November 14, 1991 and the plan was submitted to EPA on November 15, 1991. The SIP submittal was reviewed by EPA to determine completeness in accordance with the completeness criteria set out at 40 CFR Part 51, Appendix V. A letter dated May 5, 1992, was forwarded to the WDOE indicating the completeness of the submittal and the next steps to be taken in the review process.

2. PM-10 Emissions Inventory

Section 172(c)(3) of the Act requires that nonattainment plan provisions include a comprehensive, accurate, current inventory of actual emissions from all sources of relevant pollutants in the nonattainment area. Because the submission of the emissions inventory is a necessary adjunct to an area's attainment demonstration (or demonstration that the area cannot practicably attain) the emissions inventory must be received with the demonstration (see 57 FR 13539).

In the 1991 plan Ecology submitted an emissions inventory of estimated actual emissions for the base year of 1990 and the attainment year of 1994, and the 3year maintenance year of 1997. Ecology sent a letter to EPA on September 6, 1995, partially amending that 1991 inventory. The amended inventory adds an additional point source and revises emission from one area source. EPA considers the changes as minor and they do not significantly impact the overall inventory for the area. Based on the 1995 letter the base year (1990) inventory the major source of particulate matter impacting the area was wind blown dust (98%, an average of 1,553,334 kilograms/day). The remainder of the emission inventory included point sources (less that 1%, 693 kilograms/day) and other area sources (less than 1%, 1215 kilograms/ day).

A report titled "An Analysis of the Impact of Biogenic PM-10 Sources on the Spokane PM-10 Nonattainment Area", prepared by the Washington State Department of Ecology, February

1992, presents the most recent

³ Section 172(c)(7) of the Act requires that plan provisions for nonattainment areas meet the applicable provisions of section 110(a)(2).