



STATE OF MAINE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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GOVERNOR

EDWARD O. SULLIVAN
COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Environmental Protection

From: Jeffrey S. Crawford, Bureau of Air Quality

Date: July 11, 1996

Subj.: Adoption: Chapter 110 Ambient Air Quality Standards

Statutory and Regulatory References:

38 M.R.S.A. Section 585: "The board may establish and may amend standards, herein called "emission standards", limiting and regulating in a just and equitable manner the amount and type of air contaminants which may be emitted to the ambient air within a region. Such emission standards shall be designed to prevent air pollution and to achieve and maintain the ambient air quality standards within the region in which applicable."

38 M.R.S.A. Section 585-A: "The board may establish and amend regulations to implement ambient air quality standards and emission standards."

Location:

Applicable statewide.

Description:

EPA revised the maximum allowable ambient air quality increases (increments) for particulate matter under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) regulations. Federal regulations require the Maine DEP to revise Chapter 110, Ambient Air Quality Standards to reflect this increment change and submit this rule as a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision to EPA. The revised increments, based on particles with an aerodynamic diameter of less than or equal to a nominal 10 micrometers (PM10), replace the original increments for particulate matter, which were based on total suspended particulates (TSP). As a result, the PSD increments and the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter will be measured by using PM10 and not TSP.

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The revised increments for particulate matter restrict increases in ambient concentrations of PM10 to the following levels: 4 ug/m3 (annual arithmetic mean) and 8 ug/m3 (24-hour maximum) for Class I areas; 17 ug/m3 (annual arithmetic mean) and 30 ug/m3 (24-hour maximum) for Class II areas; and 34 ug/m3 (annual arithmetic mean) and 60 ug/m3 (24-hour maximum) for Class III areas.

Environmental issues:

On July 1, 1987, the EPA revised the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for PM10 to replace the TSP standard. The EPA selected the PM10 indicator for measuring increment consumption on the basis that it would not be reasonable to continue to count larger particles (TSP) in preventing significant deterioration when these particles were not part of the measurement for determining compliance with the revised NAAQS for particulate matter.

Department recommendation:

A public hearing was held on June 12, 1996. The Department recommends that the Board adopt Chapter 110 with the minor changes EPA recommended.

Estimated time of presentation:

Ten minutes