



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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NOV 12 2013

Ms. Diana Esher, Director  
Air Protection Division (3AP00)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

Reference: Richmond Ozone  
Maintenance Plan, Stage II

Dear Ms. Esher:

Pursuant to the requirements of § 110 of the federal Clean Air Act, we are officially requesting approval of a revision to the Commonwealth of Virginia State Implementation Plan (SIP) approved and submitted under the authority of § 10.1-1185 of the Code of Virginia and in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR Part 51 (Requirements for Preparation, Adoption, and Submittal of Implementation Plans).

This revision consists of amending the currently effective ozone maintenance plan for the Richmond ozone attainment/maintenance area such that Stage II vapor recovery systems are no longer required beginning on January 1, 2017.

On May 16, 2012 (77 FR 28772), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined that onboard refueling vapor recovery (ORVR) technology is in widespread use throughout the motor vehicle fleet for purposes of controlling motor vehicle refueling emissions, and, therefore, is waiving the requirement for states to implement Stage II gasoline vapor recovery systems at gasoline dispensing facilities. A state that had been previously required to implement a Stage II program may now take appropriate action to remove the program from its SIP. Phasing out the use of Stage II systems may lead to long-term cost savings for gas station owners and operators while air quality protections are maintained.

The Richmond area was originally designated as a moderate nonattainment area on November 6, 1991 for the 1990 1-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) of 0.012 parts per million (ppm). The area's air quality improved, and a redesignation request and maintenance plan were approved by EPA on November 17, 1997. On April 30, 2004, EPA designated the area as a moderate nonattainment area for the 1997 ozone NAAQS of 0.08 ppm. Again the area qualified for attainment status, and EPA approved the redesignation request and maintenance plan on June 1, 2007. Both maintenance plans contained estimated emission reductions from the implementation of Stage II vapor controls on gasoline dispensing stations. Since the maintenance plans were developed and approved, the area has been attaining the current, more-protective ozone NAAQS of 0.075 ppm. The Commonwealth has determined that Stage II is no longer needed in the area's currently applicable maintenance plans, which are approved into the Virginia SIP at 40 CFR 52.2420(e).

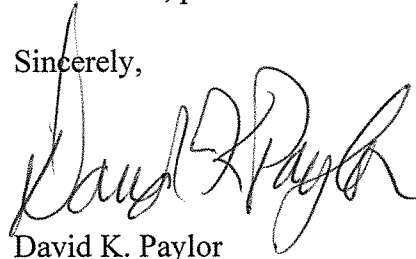
Removing this control requirement does not interfere with maintenance of any ozone NAAQS. This SIP revision satisfies the requirements of the widespread use determination of 40 CFR 51.126 as well as in EPA guidance and § 110(l) of the Clean Air Act.

Enclosed are the following:

1. SIP submittal.
2. Certification of public participation activities.
3. Record of hearing and summary of comment.
4. An electronic copy (CD) of the complete submittal. This electronic copy is an exact duplicate of the hard copy.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David K. Paylor", written in a cursive style.

David K. Paylor

DKP\kgs

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Enclosures