

NOTICE: Extension of comment period for proposal to revise interim approval criteria for operating permits programs.

On August 29, 1994, EPA proposed in the Federal Register (59 FR 44572) revisions to the interim approval criteria within the part 70 operating permits regulations. The comment period provided in that notice was 30 days and closed on September 28, 1994. The EPA is extending that comment period an additional 30 days until October 28, 1994.

Several requests for an extension of the comment period on the interim approval criteria notice were received soon after publication of the proposal notice. Because of the significance of the issues (e.g., the definition of title I modification), these commenters felt the 30-day comment period provided was not long enough to prepare their comments. In another Federal Register notice also published on August 29 (59 FR 44460), EPA has proposed to add a definition of title I modification to the part 70 regulations. That notice provides a 90-day comment period. However, EPA must resolve the issue of the proper definition of title I modification in order to complete the interim approval criteria rulemaking, since that issue bears on the decision to change the criteria as proposed. The Agency is required to begin making final decisions on the approvability of State and local part 70 programs in the next several months, so EPA must complete the interim approval criteria rulemaking soon. In view of that timeframe, EPA is extending the comment period on the interim approval criteria rulemaking by 30 days, until October 28. Anyone wishing to submit comments on the definition of title I modification should submit their comments on that issue by October 28. The Agency will make its determination on the title I modification definition based on comments received on the interim approval criteria notice. Both of the August 29 proposals have the same docket number (A-93-50).

A Federal Register notice is being prepared to extend the comment period discussed above and is expected to be published in the near future.