Public Comment Logistics and Timeline to a Final Rule

George Bridgers
U.S. EPA / OAQPS / Air Quality Modeling Group

Wednesday, November 15, 2023
The public comment period for the proposed rule runs through December 22\textsuperscript{nd}.


Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OAR–2022–0872, by one of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: [https://www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- Email: a-and-r-docket@epa.gov. Include Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OAR–2022–0872 in the subject line of the message.
- Fax: (202) 566–9744.
- Hand/Courier Delivery: EPA Docket Center, Room 3334, EPA WJC West Building, 1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC. The Docket Center’s hours of operations are 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday (except Federal Holidays).
Steps to Finalize *Guideline* / AERMOD Rule

- After the holidays, we will be working on the Response to Comments package and the final version of the rule (Winter / Spring 2024).

- There will be a determination of significance for the final rule by OMB (Spring 2024).
  - Hoping that it will remain a non-significant rule, but the schedule will be adjusted if determined otherwise

- The goal is for the final rule publication with a corresponding 24XXX release version of the AERMOD Modeling System and final version of the Background Concentration Guidance as soon as possible thereafter (Mid/late Summer 2024).
  - Trying to avoid getting too close to the presidential elections and potential of having unnecessary delays based on administrative review by the next administration.

- A final note on the rule, this will be only the second time since 2005 that EPA has made regulatory revisions to either the *Guideline* or the AERMOD Modeling System.
  - The last regulatory revisions were in 2015 (proposal) – 2016-17 (final).
  - In the 2017 revisions, we made substantial and foundational changes based on experience gained and changes to the NAAQS landscape in that decade since initial AERMOD promulgation (2005).
  - Overall, our current action fits within EPA’s commitment to focus on more frequent regulatory updates (3-5 years)
  - Expect this round of regulatory updates can become a model for future regulatory updates.