

Key Points from the 2002 SIP Process Improvement Project (SIP PIP) with Updates from the 2012 SIP Lean Event

- 1. EPA and state and local agencies will coordinate closely to manage SIP workload and priorities.** EPA will coordinate annually with each state to identify in the “Annual SIP Priorities Document” SIPs in development, submitted SIPs and the priorities for the coming year. State and EPA SIP coordinators will communicate regularly (e.g., monthly) to track and update the progress of these SIPs.
- 2. EPA and state and local agencies will work closely in the planning and development phase of a SIP and will work to identify and resolve issues before the SIP is adopted by the state or local agency.** State and local agencies will prepare a SIP Development Plan prior to initiating work. EPA will participate in this planning to help identify what rules are and are not appropriate for inclusion in the SIP and what rules are and are not required by the Clean Air Act.

The SIP Development Plan will identify technical, legal, and policy issues that need to be resolved. It will also include a schedule of major milestones and clarify the role of each person involved in the SIP process. EPA Region 10 will put increased priority on identifying and resolving issues before SIP revisions are adopted by the state or local agency.

- 3. EPA and state and local agencies will determine the appropriate level of process for a SIP revision.** There are three levels of SIP revisions: (1) Complex, (2) Moderate, or (3) Minor. EPA, with the state or local agency’s input, will evaluate the level of process that would be most appropriate as the agencies are having discussions about the SIP Development Plan. SIPs will be categorized based on the specific facts for that SIP. Most SIP revisions will be in the moderate category. SIPs such as attainment plans and regional haze plans, however, would generally be in the complex category, while SIPs such as 2nd 10-year maintenance plans and recodifications could be in the minor category. The SIP category decision should be agreed to by EPA and the state or local agency prior to initiating work. State and local agencies may complete a Fast Track Checklist for SIPs they believe are in the minor category and they would like to be processed using the fast track process.
- 4. State and local agencies should prepare and submit to EPA well documented rationale and justification for SIP revisions.** This will simplify EPA’s work in preparing supporting documentation and Federal Register notices. EPA will provide the state and local agencies with past EPA technical support documents and Federal Register notices to inform SIP development and to augment the templates already in SIP PIP.