**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**38 CFR Parts 3, 8, 14, 19, 20, and 21**

**RIN 2900-AQ26**

**VA Claims and Appeals Modernization**

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Final rule; correction.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is correcting a final rule regarding its claims adjudication, appeals, and Rules of Practice of the Board of Veterans’ Appeals (Board) regulations. This correction addresses minor technical errors in the published final rule.

**DATES:** Effective February 19, 2019.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Veterans Benefits Administration information, Jennifer Williams, Senior Management and Program Analyst, Appeals Management Office, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 530–9124 (this is not a toll-free number). Board of Veterans’ Appeals information, parts 19 and 20: Rachel Sauter, Counsel for Legislation, Regulations, and Policy, Board of Veterans’ Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 632–5555 (this is not a toll-free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Due to technical errors and dropped amendments in editing, VA is correcting its final rule, VA Claims and Appeals Modernization, that published January 18, 2019, in the Federal Register at 84 FR 138.

**Corrections**

In FR Rule Doc. No. 2018–28350, beginning on page 138 in the issue of January 18, 2019, make the following corrections:

1. On page 139, second column, third paragraph under “B. Comments Concerning § 3.103—Procedural Due Process and Other Rights,” in last sentence (line 21), remove “to § 3.103(d)(2)”.

2. On page 146, first column, in line 22, correct “§ 3.351(c)” to read “§ 3.151(g).”

3. On page 168, second column, correct instruction 8 to read as follows:

"8. In § 3.114, remove the word “reopened” and add in its place the word “supplemental”.”

4. On page 169, first column, in the amendment to § 3.156, add introductory text, per instruction 11b, and correct the third sentence in paragraph (a) to read as follows:

**§ 3.156 [Corrected]**

New evidence is evidence not previously part of the actual record before agency adjudicators.

(a) * * * New evidence is evidence not previously part of the actual record before agency adjudicators. * * *

* * * * *

**§ 3.2400 [Corrected]**

5. On page 171, second column, in paragraph (d) of added § 3.2400, add the word “only” between the words “applicable” and “to”.

**§ 3.2500 [Corrected]**

6. On page 171, third column, in paragraph (b) of added § 3.2500, add a period at the end of the first sentence ending with “option”.

7. On page 172, third column, correct instruction 31 and add text for revised paragraph (c) to read as follows:

- 31. Amend § 3.2600 by revising the section heading, adding introductory text, revising paragraph (c), and removing paragraph (g).

The revisions and addition read as follows:

**§ 3.2600 Legacy review of benefit claims decisions.**

* * * * *

(c) The reviewer may conduct whatever development he or she considers necessary to resolve any disagreements in the Notice of Disagreement, consistent with applicable law. This may include an attempt to obtain additional evidence or the holding of an informal conference with the claimant. Upon the request of the claimant, the reviewer will conduct a hearing under the version of § 3.103(c) of this chapter predating Public Law 115–55.

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8. On page 177, in the second column, in the second table, add the entry “20.304. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 19.54” at the end of the table.

9. On page 180, first column, before instruction 95, add instruction 94a and its corresponding regulatory text to read as follows:

- 94a. Amend newly redesignated § 20.101 by revising the section heading and paragraph (b) to read as follows:
§ 20.101 Rule 101. Composition of the Board; titles.

(b) A Member of the Board (other than the Chairman) may also be known as a Veterans Law Judge. An individual designated as an acting member pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 7101(c)(1) may also be known as an acting Veterans Law Judge.

§ 20.102 Rule 102. General jurisdiction.

§ 20.103 Rule 103. Principal functions of the Board.

§ 20.104 Rule 104. Jurisdiction;


In the consideration of appeals and in its decisions, the Board is bound by applicable statutes, regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and precedent opinions of the General Counsel of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Board is not bound by Department manuals, circulars, or similar administrative issues.

§ 20.106 Rule 106. Assignment of proceedings.


§ 20.108 Rule 108. Delegation of authority to Chairman and Vice Chairman, Board of Veterans’ Appeals.

§ 20.109 Rule 109. Delegation of authority to Vice Chairman, Deputy Vice Chairman, or Members of the Board.

(a) The authority exercised by the Chairman of the Board of Veterans’ Appeals described in Rules 106(b) and 107(b) (§§ 20.106(b) and 20.107(b)) may also be exercised by the Vice Chairman of the Board.

(b) The authority exercised by the Chairman of the Board of Veterans’ Appeals described in Rules 1004 and 1002(c) (§§ 20.1004 and 20.1002(c)) may also be exercised by the Vice Chairman of the Board and by Deputy Vice Chairmen of the Board.

(c) The authority exercised by the Chairman of the Board of Veterans’ Appeals described in Rule 2 (§ 20.2), may also be exercised by the Vice Chairman of the Board; by Deputy Vice Chairmen of the Board; and, in connection with a proceeding or motion assigned to them by the Chairman, by a Member or Members of the Board.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 512(a), 7102, 7104)


§ 20.6 [Corrected]

13. On page 184, in the first column, in § 20.6, in line 14 of paragraph (a)(1), remove the quotation mark before “§ 14.630”.

14. On page 184, in the second column, correct the heading and instruction 120 to read as follows:

§§ 20.606–20.611 [Reserved]


16. On page 188, in the third column, under the heading “§ 20.800 [Redesignated as § 20.901]”, remove “153.” from the end of the instruction.

17. On page 190, before instruction 162, add instructions 161a through 161c and their corresponding regulatory text to read as follows:

161a. Amend newly redesignated § 20.903:

a. By revising the section heading;

b. In the second sentence of paragraph (b), by removing the words “separately stated”;

c. By removing the authority citation at the end of paragraph (b); and

d. By adding an authority citation at the end of the section.

The revisions and addition read as follows:

§ 20.903 Rule 903. The decision.

Authority: 38 U.S.C. 7102, 7103(c); 38 U.S.C. 7104(a), 7105 (2016).

161c. Amend newly redesignated § 20.905 by revising the section heading to read as follows:

§ 20.905 Rule 905. Content of Board decision, remand, or order in simultaneously contested claims.

§ 20.1000 [Corrected]

18. On page 191, in the first column, in § 20.1000, in paragraph (a)(3), correct “app7al” to read “appeal”.

19. On page 191, in the second column, before instruction 170, add instruction 169a and its corresponding regulatory text to read as follows:

169a. Amend newly redesignated § 20.1004 by:

a. Revising the section heading; and

b. Removing the word “heard” in paragraph (b) and adding in its place the word “decided” both places it appears.

The revision reads as follows:


* * * * *
ENFORCEMENT

AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[ EPA–R01–OAR–2018–0212; FRL–9984–75; Region 1 ]

Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Revisions to the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Greenhouse Gas Permitting Authority

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is approving a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the State of Connecticut. This revision affects provisions applicable to greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the EPA’s Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permit program. Connecticut requested the revision in response to the June 23, 2014, U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in Utility Air Regulatory Group (UARG) v. EPA and the April 10, 2015, Amended Judgment by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit (D.C. Circuit) in Coalition for Responsible Regulation v. EPA. The intended effect of this action is to clarify that the State’s PSD rules do not require a source to obtain a permit solely because the source emits or has the potential to emit (PTE) GHGs: Above the PSD applicability thresholds for new major sources or for which there is a significant emissions increase from a modification. This action is being taken in accordance with the Clean Air Act.

DATES: This rule is effective on March 18, 2019.

ADDRESSES: The EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket Identity No. EPA–R01–OAR–2018–0212. All documents in the docket are listed on the https://www.regulations.gov website. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, i.e., CBI or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available at https://www.regulations.gov or at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Region 1, Office of Ecosystem Protection, Air Permits, Toxics, and Indoor Programs Unit, 5 Post Office Square—Suite 100, Boston, MA. The EPA requests that if at all possible, you contact the contact listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section to schedule your inspection. The Regional Office’s official hours of business are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Donald Dahl, Air Permits, Toxics, and Indoor Programs Unit, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Region 1, 5 Post Office Square—Suite 100, (Mail code OEP05–2), Boston, MA 02109–3912, tel. (617) 916–1657, email dahl.donald@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Throughout this document whenever “we,” “us,” or “our” is used, we mean EPA.

Table of Contents

I. Background and Purpose
II. Response to Comments
III. Final Action
IV. Incorporation by Reference
V. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

I. Background and Purpose

On June 15, 2018 (83 FR 27936), the EPA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for the State of Connecticut. The NPRM proposed approval of removing the requirement that a source would have to obtain a PSD permit solely due to its GHG emissions, commonly known as “Step 2” sources. The formal SIP revision was submitted by Connecticut on February 15, 2018. The rationale for the EPA’s proposed action is explained in the NPRM and will not be restated here.

II. Response to Comments

The EPA received four comments during the comment period. One comment supported the EPA’s proposed action. Three comments discuss subjects outside the scope of this SIP action, do not explain (or provide a legal basis for) how the proposed action should differ in any way, and make no specific mention of the proposed action. As such, these three comments are not germane and do not require further response to finalize the action as proposed.

III. Final Action

The EPA is approving Connecticut’s removal from Connecticut’s SIP of the requirement that sources must obtain a PSD permit based solely on a source’s GHG emissions.

IV. Incorporation by Reference

In this rule, the EPA is finalizing regulatory text that includes incorporation by reference. In accordance with requirements of 1 CFR 51.5, the EPA is finalizing the incorporation by reference revisions to RSCA Section 22a–174–3a(a)(1) entitled “Applicability,” RSCA Section 22a–174–3a(j)(1) for when control technology applies, and RSCA Sections 22a–174–3a(k)(1) and (2) regarding applicability of GHGs for major stationary sources and major modifications, in the amendments to 40 CFR part 52 set forth below. All three state regulations were effective February 8, 2018. The EPA has made, and will continue to make, these documents generally available electronically through https://www.regulations.gov.

V. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

Under the Clean Air Act, the Administrator is required to approve a SIP submission that complies with the provisions of the Act and applicable Federal regulations. 42 U.S.C. 7410(k); 40 CFR 52.02(a). Thus, in reviewing SIP submissions, the EPA’s role is to approve state choices, provided that they meet the criteria of the Clean Air Act. Accordingly, this action merely approves state law as meeting Federal requirements and does not impose additional requirements beyond those imposed by state law. For that reason, this action:

- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Orders 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993) and 13563 (76 FR 3821, January 21, 2011);
- This action is not an Executive Order 13771 regulatory action because this action is not significant under Executive Order 12866;
- Does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.);
- Is certified as not having a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);
- Does not contain any unfunded mandate or significantly or uniquely affect small governments, as described in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–4); and
- Does not have Federalism implications as specified in Executive