NOTICE OF PROPOSED AIR QUALITY REGULATION CHANGES AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD

The Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission (APC&EC) will hold a public hearing on June 6, 2016, to receive public comments on proposed changes to APC&EC Regulation No. 19, (Regulations of the Arkansas Plan of Implementation for Air Pollution Control). The hearing will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Room at the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) headquarters building, 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118. The deadline for submitting written comments on the proposed changes is 4:30 p.m. (Central Time), June 20, 2016.

In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, a decision may be made to postpone the hearing. If the hearing is postponed and rescheduled, a new legal notice will be published to announce the details of the new hearing date and comment period.

APC&EC authority to revise Regulation 19 is found in Arkansas Code Annotated, Section 8-4-301, et seq.

The substantive proposed changes to the Regulation 19 are necessary to comply with federal requirements, which include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) finding that the current provisions are substantially inadequate to meet federal Clean Air Act (CAA) requirements and to address EPA's State Implementation Plan (SIP) call with respect to applying to excess emissions during periods of startup, shutdown and malfunction provisions published in the Federal Register (80 FR 33840, June 12, 2015). The proposed changes also include the repeal of Chapter 14, Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) Ozone Season Trading Program General Provisions, since it is no longer in effect, and EPA replaced it with the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), which took effect on January 1, 2015. Other substantive proposed changes include the addition of a definition of "Direct PM_{2.5} Emissions" and also the addition of t-Butyl Acetate to the list of compounds determined to have negligible photochemical reactivity in the definition of "Volatile organic compounds."

In general, the proposed changes will help ensure Arkansas has the authority to implement air pollution control programs and to issue permits. Amendments to Regulation 19 will be submitted to the EPA for inclusion into Arkansas's SIP.

Copies of proposed regulation changes are available for public inspection during normal business hours in the ADEQ's headquarters building in North Little Rock, and in ADEQ information depositories located in public libraries at Arkadelphia, Batesville, Blytheville, Camden, Clinton, Crossett, El Dorado, Fayetteville, Forrest City, Fort Smith, Harrison, Helena, Hope, Hot Springs, Jonesboro, Little Rock, Magnolia, Mena, Monticello, Mountain Home, Pocahontas, Russellville, Searcy, Stuttgart, Texarkana, and West Memphis; in campus libraries at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and the University of Central Arkansas at Conway. In addition, copies of the draft regulations showing the proposed changes, along with related support documents, are available for viewing or downloading on the draft regulations page of the ADEQ's Internet website at www.adeq.state.ar.us.

Oral and written statements will be accepted at the hearing, but written comments are preferred in the interest of accuracy. In addition, written and electronic mail comments will be accepted if received no later than 4:30 p.m. (Central Time) June 20, 2016. Written comments should be mailed to Kelly Robinson, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118. Electronic mail comments should be sent to: reg-comment@adeq.state.ar.us.

Published May 4 and 5, 2016, Becky W. Keogh, Director, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality