

Arkansas Authorized Hazardous Waste Program

EPA is incorporating by reference the Arkansas authorized hazardous waste program in subpart E of 40 CFR part 272. The State statutes and regulations are incorporated by reference at § 272.201(b)(1) and the Memorandum of Agreement, the Attorney General's Statement and the Program Description are referenced at § 272.201 (b)(5), (b)(6) and (b)(7), respectively.

The Agency retains the authority under Sections 3007, 3008, 3013 and 7003 of RCRA to undertake enforcement actions in authorized States. With respect to such an enforcement action, the Agency will rely on Federal sanctions, Federal inspection authorities, and the Federal Administrative Procedure Act rather than the authorized State analogues to these requirements. Therefore, the Agency does not intend to incorporate by reference for purposes of enforcement such particular, authorized Arkansas enforcement authorities. Section 272.201(b)(2) of 40 CFR lists those authorized Arkansas authorities that are part of the authorized program but are not incorporated by reference.

The public also needs to be aware that some provisions of the State's hazardous waste management program are not part of the Federally authorized State program. These non-authorized provisions include:

(1) Provisions that are not part of the RCRA Subtitle C program because they are "broader in scope" than RCRA Subtitle C (see 40 CFR 271.1(i)); and

(2) Federal rules for which Arkansas is not authorized, but which have been incorporated into the State regulations because of the way the State adopted Federal regulations by reference.

State provisions which are "broader in scope" than the Federal program are not incorporated by reference for purposes of enforcement in 40 CFR part 272. Section 272.201(b)(3) of 40 CFR lists for reference and clarity the Arkansas statutory and regulatory provisions which are "broader in scope" than the Federal program and which are not, therefore, part of the authorized program being incorporated by reference. "Broader in scope" provisions will not be enforced by EPA; the State, however, will continue to enforce such provisions.

Arkansas has adopted but is not authorized for the September 1, 1988 (53 FR 33938) and the July 1, 1991 (see 56 FR 30200) amendments to Parts 264 and 265 addressing liability requirements. Thus, the portions of the Arkansas Hazardous Waste Management

code, chapter 2, sections 3a(5) and 3a(6) incorporating the September 1, 1988 and the July 1, 1991 amendments are not part of the State's authorized program and are not part of the incorporation by reference addressed by today's **Federal Register** document.

Since EPA cannot enforce a State's requirements which have not been reviewed and approved according to the Agency's authorization standards, it is important that EPA clarify any limitations on the scope of a State's approved hazardous waste program. Thus, in those instances where a State's method of adopting Federal law by reference has the effect of including unauthorized requirements, EPA will provide this clarification by: (1) Incorporating by reference the relevant State legal authorities according to the requirements of the Office of Federal Register; and (2) subsequently identifying in 272.201(b)(4) any requirements which while adopted and incorporated by reference, are not authorized by EPA, and therefore are not Federally enforceable. Thus, notwithstanding the language in the Arkansas hazardous waste regulations incorporated by reference at 272.201(b)(1), EPA would only enforce the State provisions that are actually authorized by EPA. With respect to HSWA requirements for which the State has not yet been authorized, EPA will continue to enforce the Federal HSWA standards until the State receives specific HSWA authorization from EPA.

HSWA Provisions

As noted above, the Agency is not amending part 272 to include HSWA requirements and prohibitions that are immediately effective in Arkansas and other States. Section 3006(g) of RCRA provides that any requirement or prohibition of HSWA (including implementing regulations) takes effect in authorized States at the same time that it takes effect in non-authorized States. Thus, EPA has immediate authority to implement a HSWA requirement or prohibition once it is effective. A HSWA requirement or prohibition supercedes any less stringent or inconsistent State provision which may have been previously authorized by EPA (see 50 FR 28702, July 15, 1985).

Because of the vast number of HSWA statutory and regulatory requirements taking effect over the next few years, EPA expects that many previously authorized and incorporated by reference State provisions will be affected. The States are required to revise their programs to adopt the HSWA requirements and prohibitions

by the deadlines set forth in 40 CFR 271.21, and then to seek authorization for those revisions pursuant to part 271. EPA expects that the States will be modifying their programs substantially and repeatedly. Instead of amending the part 272 every time a new HSWA provision takes effect under the authority of RCRA 3006(g), EPA will wait until the State receives authorization for its analog to the new HSWA provision before amending the State's part 272 incorporation by reference. In the interim, persons wanting to know whether a HSWA requirement or prohibition is in effect should refer to 40 CFR 271.1(j), as amended, which lists each such provision.

The incorporation by reference of State authorized programs in the CFR should substantially enhance the public's ability to discern the current status of the authorized State program and clarify the extent of Federal enforcement authority. This will be particularly true as more State program revisions to adopt HSWA provisions are authorized.

Certification Under The Regulatory Flexibility Act

Pursuant to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 605(b), I hereby certify that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. It intends to incorporate by reference the decisions already made to authorize Arkansas' program and has no separate effect on handlers of hazardous waste in the State or upon small entities. This rule, therefore, does not require a regulatory flexibility analysis.

Compliance With Executive Order 12866

The Office of Management and Budget has exempted this rule from the requirements of Section 6 of Executive Order 12866.

Paperwork Reduction Act

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, Federal agencies must consider the paperwork burden imposed by any information request contained in a proposed rule or a final rule. This rule will not impose any information requirements upon the regulated community.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 272

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Confidential business information, Hazardous waste transportation, Hazardous waste, Incorporation by reference, Indian lands, Intergovernmental relations, Penalties,