

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
AIR AND RADIATION ADMINISTRATION

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

for the

PUBLIC HEARING held on February 20, 2018
in BALTIMORE, MD
related to amendments to COMAR 26.11.17

Purpose of Hearing: The purpose of the public hearing was to allow for public comment on the Maryland Department of the Environment's (the Department or MDE) proposal regarding amendments to regulations .01 and .04 under COMAR 26.11.17 Nonattainment Provisions for Major New Sources and Major Modifications.

The purpose of this action is to amend COMAR 26.11.17 to allow interprecursor trading of ozone precursors, NOx and VOC.

Date and Location: The public hearing was held on February 20, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Boulevard, 1st Floor Aeris Conference Room, Baltimore, Maryland 21230.

Attendance: No Attendees.

Statement: The Department's statement was submitted by Karen Irons, Program Manager of the Air Quality Permits Program, Air and Radiation Administration, Maryland Department of the Environment.

Comments and Responses: Comments were received from Dominion Energy.

A summary of the comments received and the Departments responses are below.

COMMENT:

Commenter supports the regulatory amendments as they will provide needed flexibility for sources and urges the Department to move forward with the proposed action.

RESPONSE:

The Department agrees with the commenters that this action will provide needed flexibility and plans to move forward with the proposed action.

COMMENT:

Commenter states that the proposed amendments establish criteria for the development of an interprecursor trading ratio on a case-by-case basis. Commenter supports these amendments and also asks the Department to consider establishing area specific default ratios in the future. The default ratios, once established, would be less burdensome for the applicant and the Department.

RESPONSE:

The Department acknowledges the comment and agrees that the establishment of default ratios might be appropriate for a future rulemaking. An option MDE could consider is the development of a default ratio while also providing the option for the development of a case-by-case ratio if desired by the applicant.