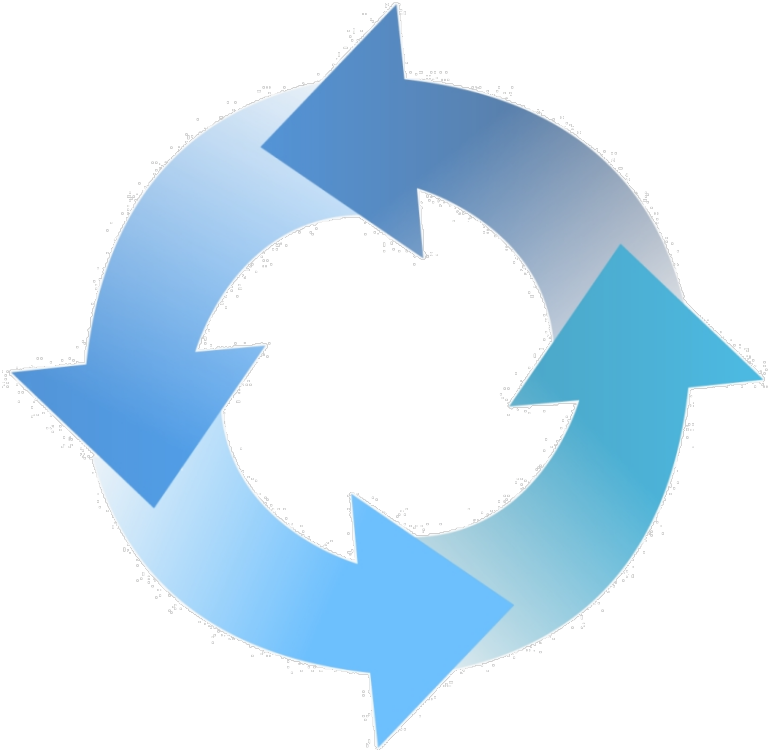
# Air Quality Management (AQM)



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MARAMA

MARAMA SIP Workshop

May 16, 2023

# Air Quality Management

- Air Quality Management (AQM) refers to all activities that a regulatory authority (such as a State or Local Agency) may undertake to make sure that the air we breathe is safe. This is done through multiple steps that reduce or control emissions of the 6 criteria pollutants, to help areas meet or maintain the NAAQS.

- **The Approach**: AQM is the approach or pathway that translates measured air quality problems into a regulatory clean air plan, also known as the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

- **The Framework**: SIPs provide for control measures that "clean the air" and achieve or maintain the standards.

# Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC)

- Established under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977.
- Provides independent advice to EPA
- Addresses research related to:
    - Air Quality
    - Sources of Air Pollution
    - Strategies to attain and maintain air quality standards
    - Strategies to prevent significant deterioration of air quality.
    - Review science assessments
    - Review risk assessments
    - Review exposure assessments
    - Policy assessments developed by EPA

# CASAC Work (Continued)

- Most preliminary work done by panels focused on criteria pollutants
- Draft reports forwarded to the chartered CASAC review before going to EPA
- National Ambient Air Quality Standards are derived by EPA's review of CASAC's work
- EPA is statutorily obligated to review ambient air quality standards every 5 years
- More can be found here: https://casac.epa.gov/ords/sab/f?p=113:2:126270013617 15

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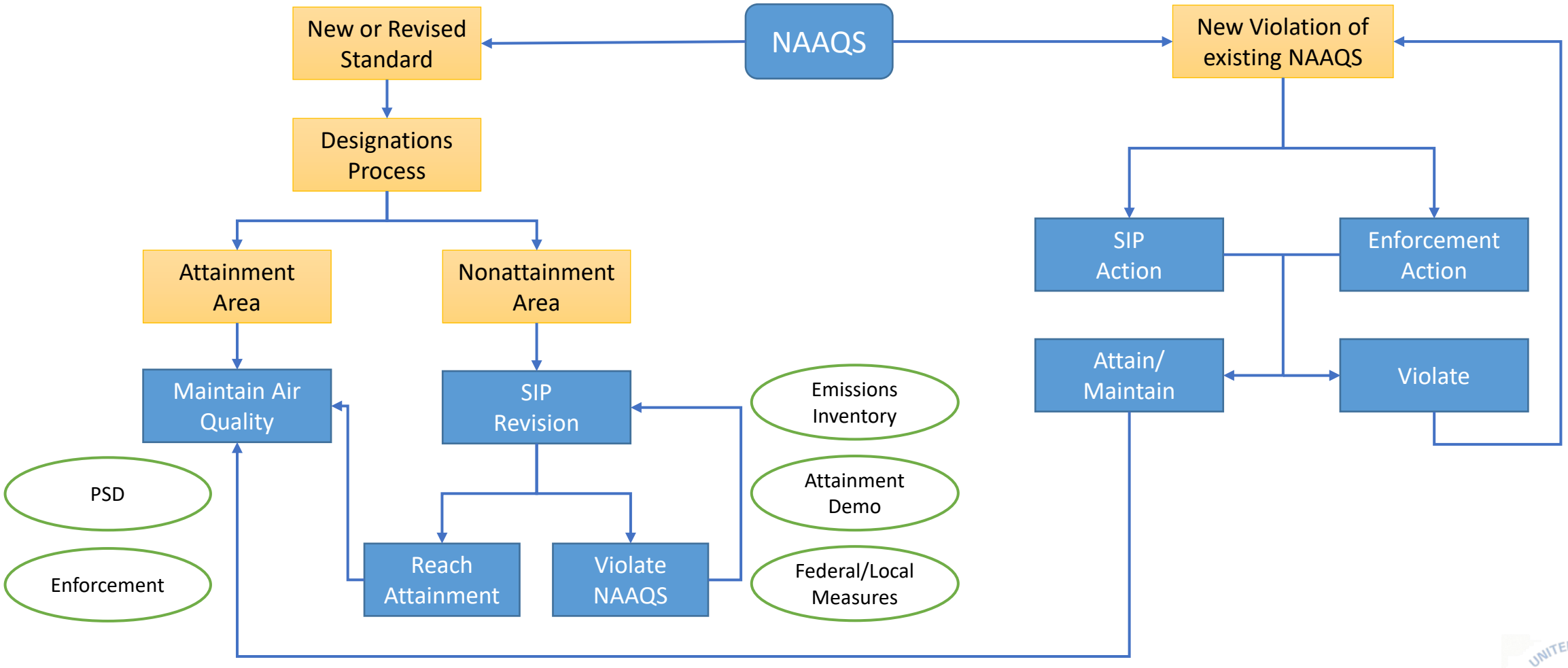

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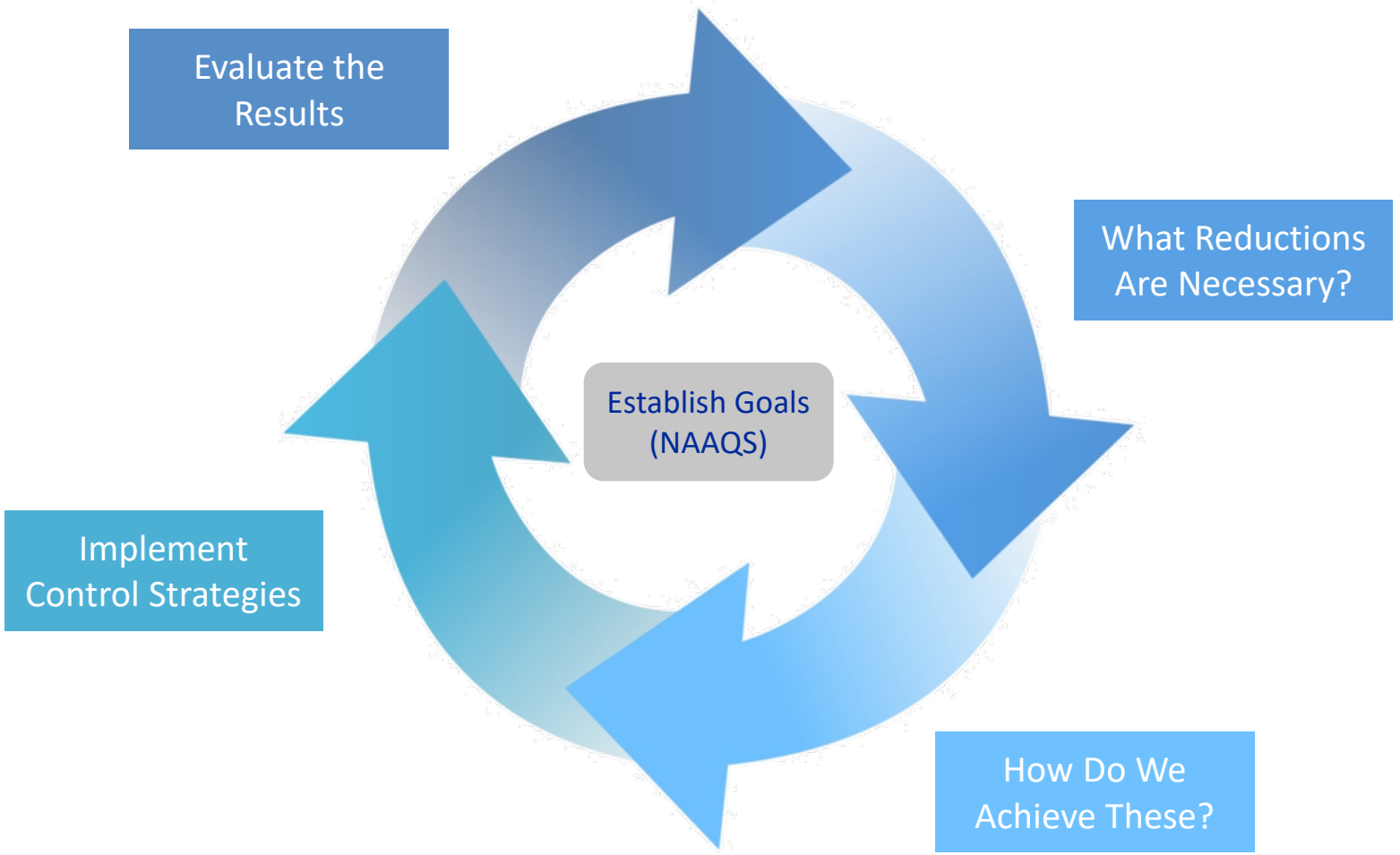

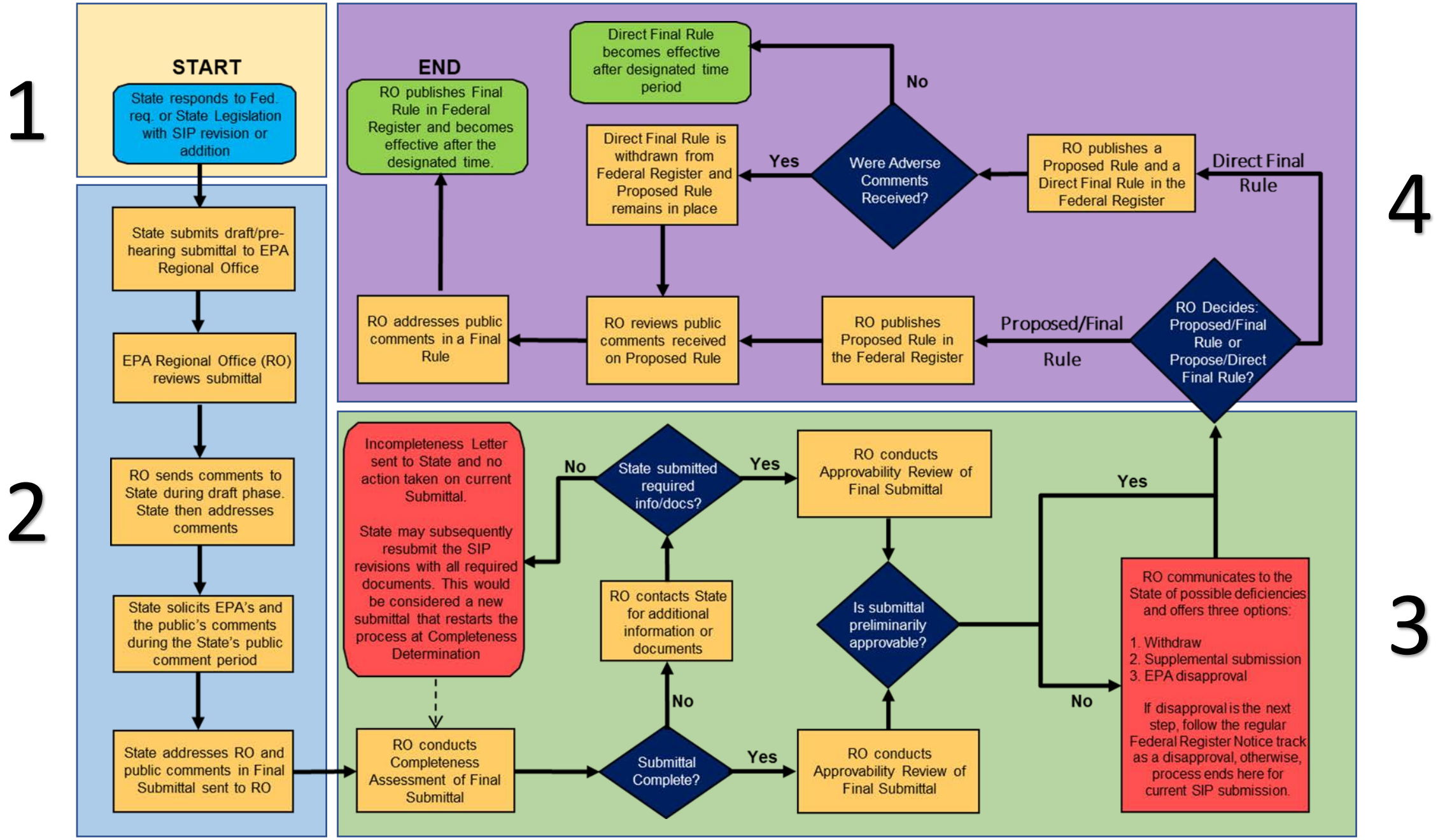
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State addresses RO and public comments in Final Submittal sent to RO
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RO conducts Completeness Assessment of Final Submittal
Submittal Complete?
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State may subsequently resubmit the SIP revisions with all required documents. This would be considered a new submittal that restarts the process at Completeness Determination
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2. Supplemental submission
3. EPA disapproval
If disapproval is the next step, follow the regular Federal Register Notice track as a disapproval, otherwise, process ends here for current SIP submission.
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RO Decides: Proposed/Final Rule or Propose/Direct Final Rule?
Proposed/Final Rule
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END
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Yes
Direct Final Rule is withdrawn from Federal Register and Proposed Rule remains in place
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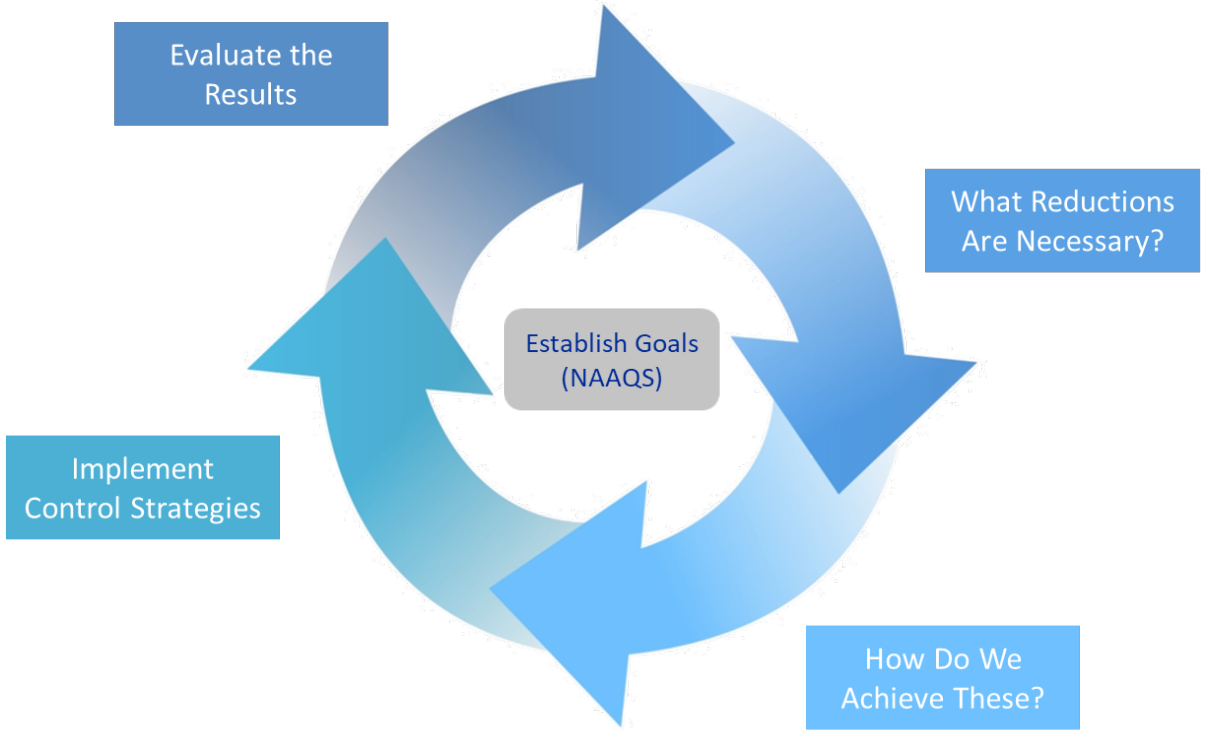
It's Complicated (but doable) Just go step by step.

"That's okay, I don't know what the chart means either."

# What are the Typical Steps in Preparing a SIP Revision?

- Determine the air quality status of the area
- Develop or revise control strategies
- Calculate emission changes
- Carry out air quality modeling analysis (if needed)
- Compare data to the current NAAQS
- Adjust strategy as necessary
- Draft rule to implement the new or revised strategies
- Adopt rules at the State level
- Submit final SIP to EPA for approval



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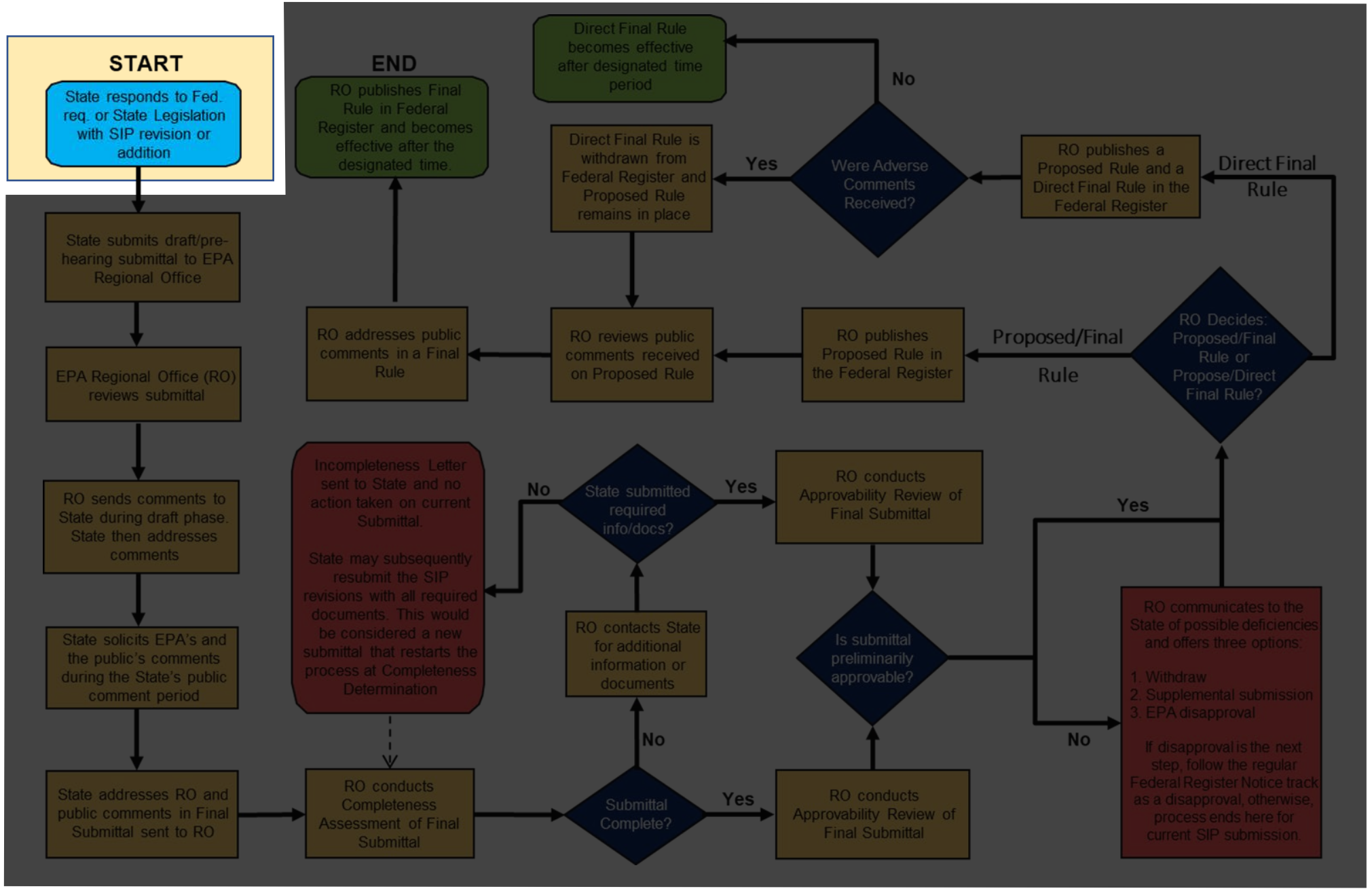
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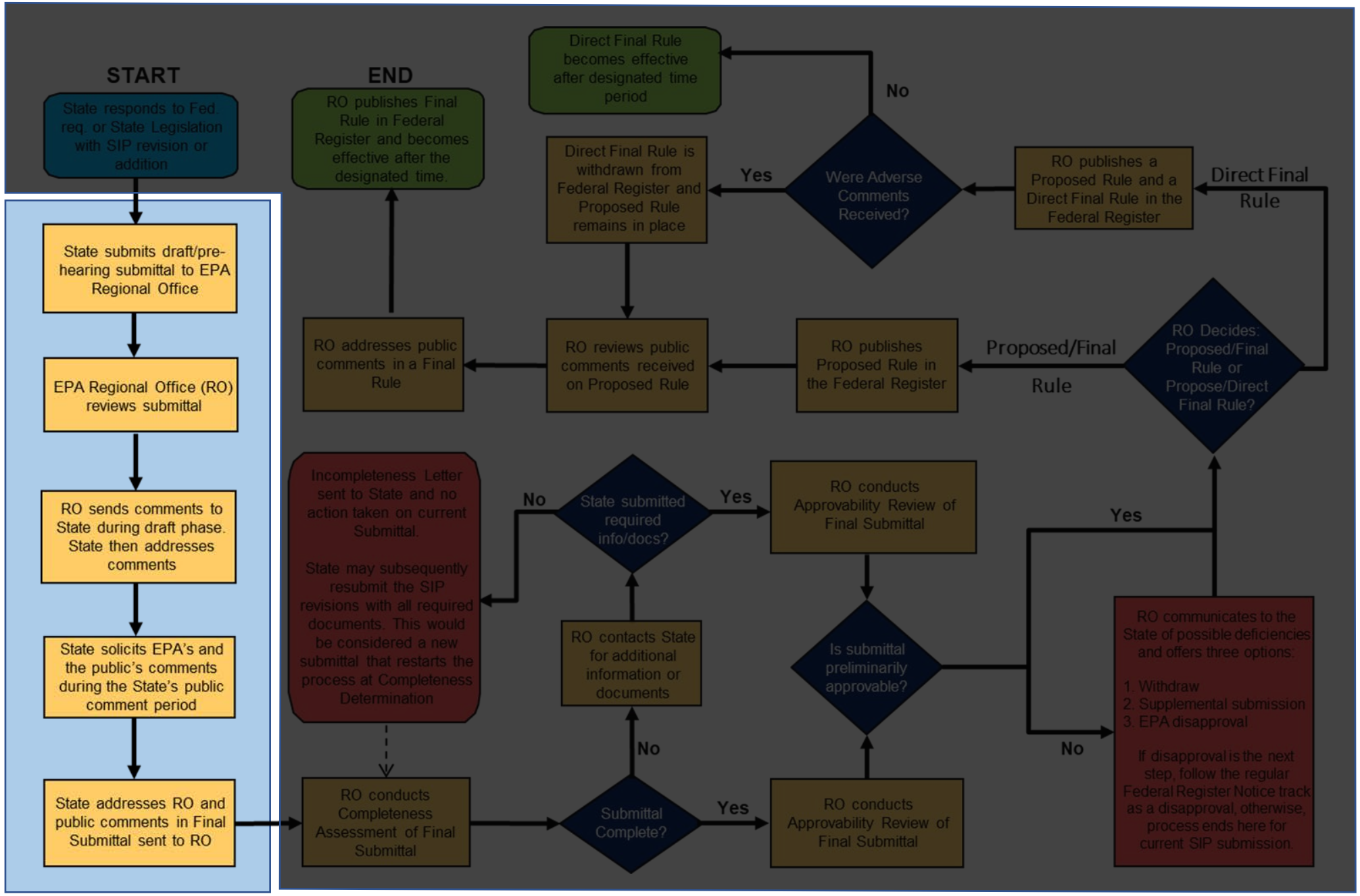
# Stage 1: Trigger and Initial Drafting

- There are three possible triggers:
  - Clean Air Act requirement (e.g., Infrastructure SIPs, Nonattainment SIPs)
  - EPA mandate (i.e., SIP Calls)
  - State Initiated (i.e., SIP Cleanup)

- Once triggered, the State will begin their internal process of evaluating the air quality in the area, review their current SIP, and drafting a new SIP submittal.

- At this point the State may begin the Early engagement process in Step 2

2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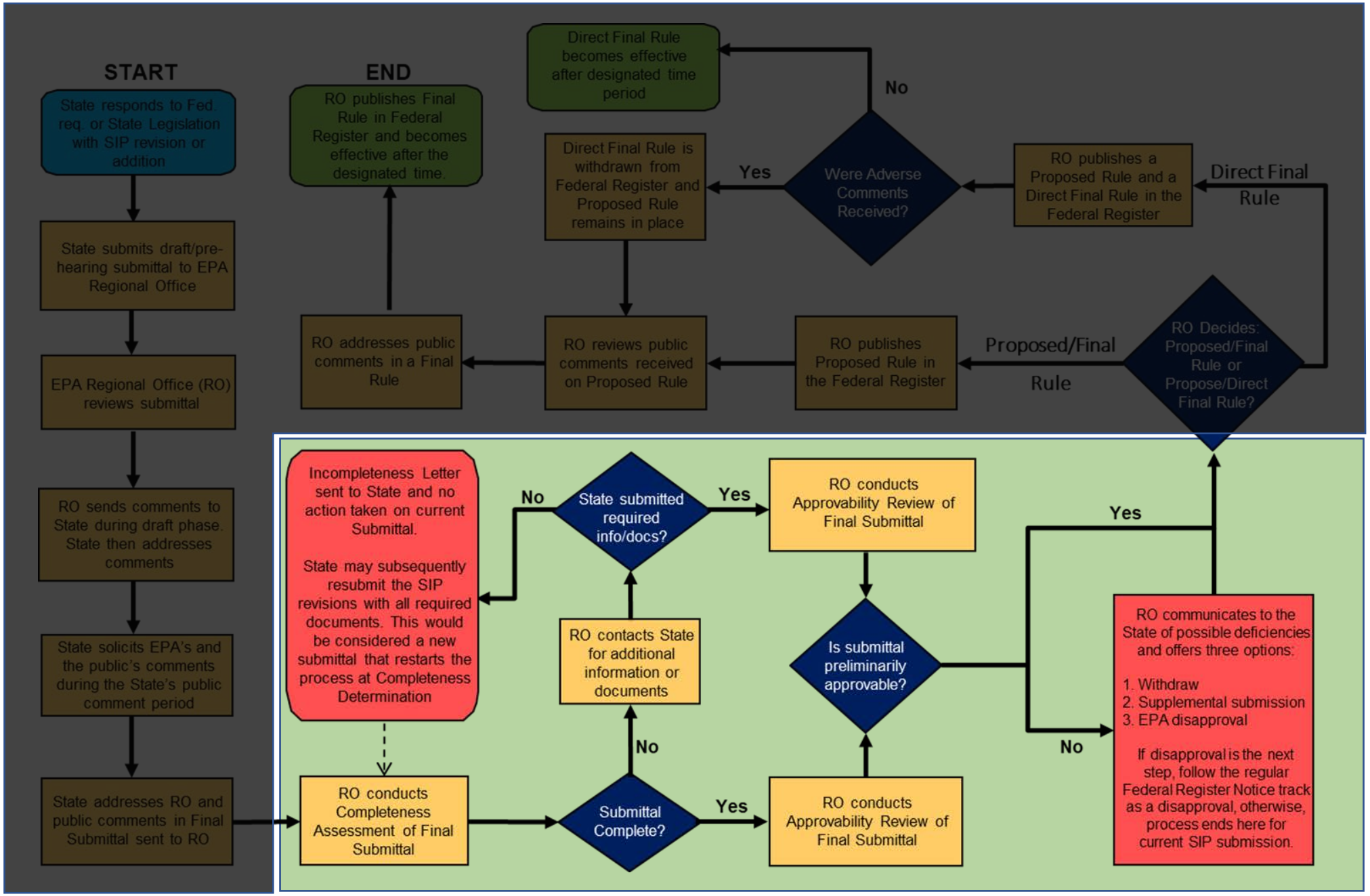
# Stage 2: Early Engagement and Public Notice

- Although not required by the CAA, EPA highly encourages the use of early engagement (i.e., draft submissions)

- Once the State and EPA are ok with the draft rule, the State begins the Public Notice process (i.e., Pre-hearings)

- The State then goes through its internal process of approving and adopting the rule changes, before proceeding to a formal request to adopt the changes into the SIP (Step 3)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# Stage 3: Final Submittal Review

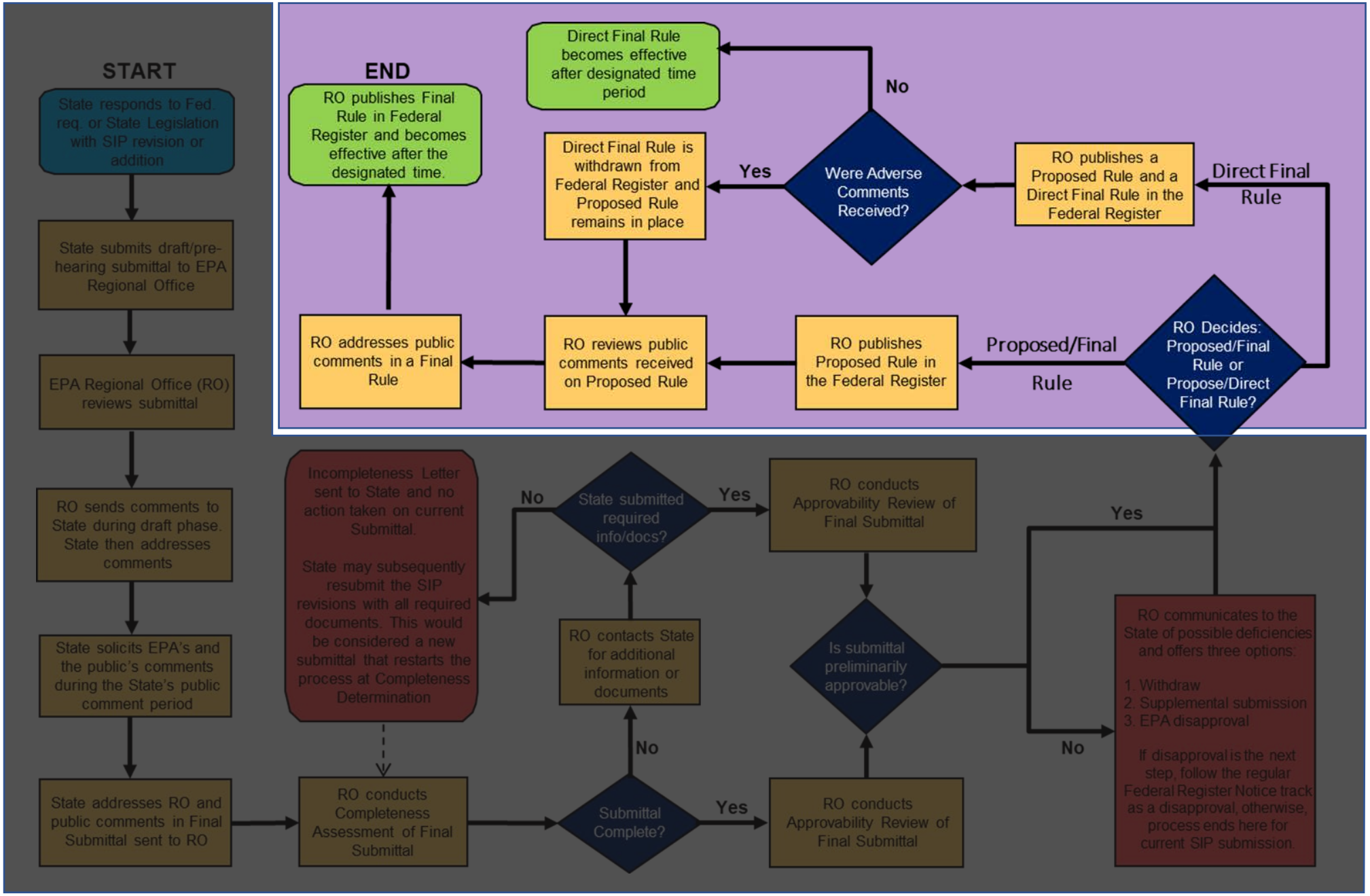
- Once a State has adopted a rule revision at the State level, they submit a Final SIP Revision package to EPA for incorporation into the SIP.

- Before beginning the process of approving a SIP revision, EPA undergoes two internal reviews:
  - Completeness Determination
  - Approvability Determination

- A Complete SIP revision in not necessarily Approvable so this review is very important.

# Completeness Determination

- Appendix V of 40 CFR Part 51 sets the minimum criteria
- Per Appendix V, EPA has 6 months to make a completeness determination
- If a submittal is incomplete, it is “sent back” to the State
- A Completeness determination is not a determination of approvability
- There are 2 parts to determine completeness:
  - Administrative Materials
  - Technical Support Materials
- ***Panel Discussion on Day 2***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# Stage 4: EPA Approval

- Once a submittal is determined to be Complete and Approvable, EPA may begin the approval process.

- Most types of SIP approvals have been delegated down to the EPA Regional Administrators.

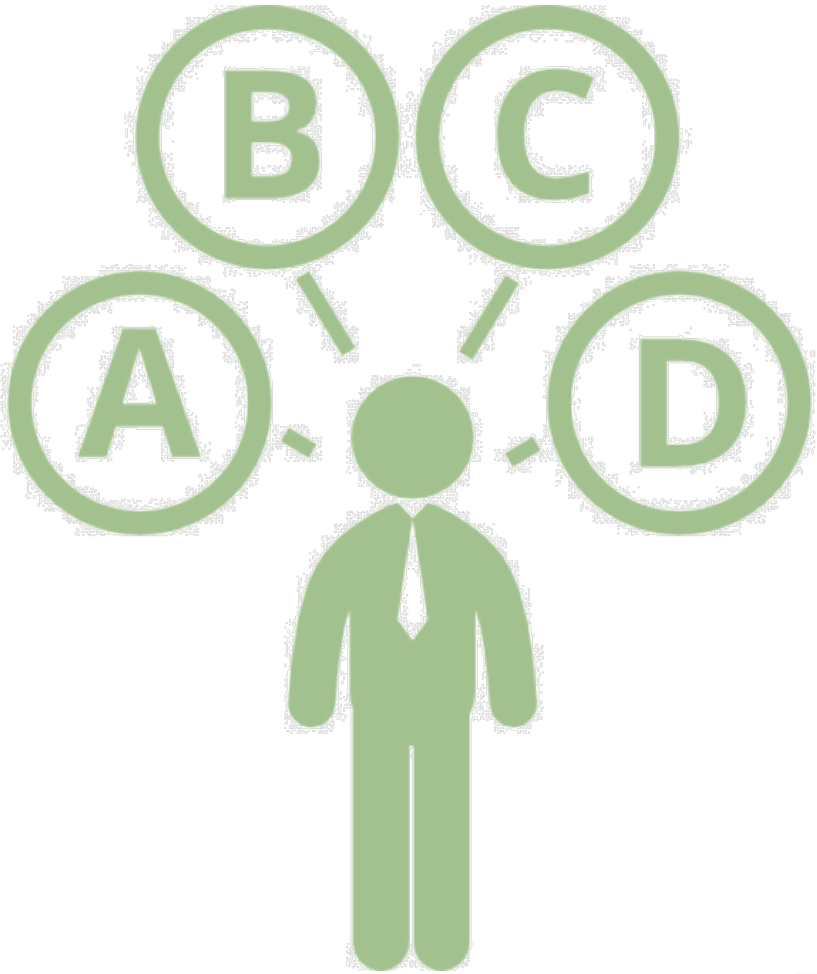
- Approvals are done through a rulemaking process where EPA publishes a notice in the *Federal Register* notifying the public of the approval.

# How Long Does a SIP Revision Typically Take to Process?

- Technical Evaluation (pre-adoption) – 6 months to 1 year
- State Rulemaking – 6 months to 2 years
- EPA approval – 6 months to 18 months

# What Types of Actions can EPA Take?

- Approval (or Full Approval)
- Disapproval (or Full Disapproval)
- Conditional Approval
- Partial Approval
- Limited Approval/Limited Disapproval



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