

EPA's previously granted waiver, and thereby may be deemed to meet the requirements of section 209(b) of the Act set forth above.

EPA has decided in the past that when California's amendments: (1) Do not undermine the previous determination that California's standards, in the aggregate, are at least as protective of public health and welfare as comparable Federal standards; (2) do not affect the consistency of California's requirements with section 202(a) of the Act; and (3) raise no new issues affecting EPA's previous waiver determinations, that EPA's concurrence that the amendments are within-the-scope of a previous waiver determination is merited.

When EPA receives new waiver requests from CARB, EPA publishes a notice of opportunity for public hearing and comment and then publishes a decision in the **Federal Register** following the public comment period. In contrast, when EPA receives within-the-scope waiver requests from CARB, EPA traditionally publishes a decision in the **Federal Register** and concurrently invites public comment if an interested party is opposed to EPA's decision.

EPA invites comment on the following issues before making a determination for CARB's within-the-scope requests: (1) Should EPA consider CARB's requests as within-the-scope of a previous waiver request or should they be considered and examined as new waiver requests? (2) If EPA were to consider CARB's requests as within-the-scope requests then do California's respective amendments (a) undermine California's previous determinations that its standards, in the aggregate, are at least as protective of public health and welfare as comparable Federal standards, (b) affect the consistency of California's requirements with section 202(a) of the Act, and (c) raise new issues affecting EPA's previous waiver determinations? (3) If EPA were to consider CARB's requests as new waiver requests, then provide comment on (a) whether California's determinations that its standards are at least as protective of public health and welfare as applicable Federal standards is arbitrary and capricious, (b) whether California needs separate standards to meet compelling and extraordinary conditions, and (c) whether California's standards and accompanying enforcement procedures are consistent with section 202(a) of the Act.

II. Procedures for Public Participation

If a public hearing is held, any party desiring to make an oral statement on the record should file ten (10) copies of

its proposed testimony and other relevant material with David Dickinson at the address listed above no later than January 28, 2004. In addition, the party should submit 25 copies, if feasible, of the planned statement to the presiding officer at the time of the hearing.

In recognition that a public hearing is designed to give interested parties an opportunity to participate in this proceeding, there are no adverse parties as such. Statements by participants will not be subject to cross-examination by other participants with special approval by the presiding officer. The presiding officer is authorized to strike from the record statements that he or she deems irrelevant or repetitious and to impose reasonable time limits on the duration of the statement of any participant.

If a hearing is held, the Agency will make a verbatim record of the proceedings. Interested parties may arrange with the reporter at the hearing to obtain a copy of the transcript at their own expense. Regardless of whether a public hearing is held, EPA will keep the record open until March 1, 2004. Upon expiration of the comment period, the Administrator will render a decision on CARB's request based on the record of the public hearing, if any, relevant written submissions, and other information that he deems pertinent.

Persons with comments containing proprietary information must distinguish such information from other comments to the greatest possible extent and label it as "Confidential Business Information" (CBI). If a person making comments wants EPA to base its decision in part on a submission labeled CBI, then a nonconfidential version of the document that summarizes the key data or information should be submitted for the public docket. To ensure that proprietary information is not inadvertently placed in the docket, submissions containing such information should be sent directly to the contact person listed above and not to the public docket. Information covered by a claim of confidentiality will be disclosed by EPA only to the extent allowed and by the procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2. If no claim of confidentiality accompanies the submission when EPA receives it, EPA will make it available to the public without further notice to the person making comments.

Dated: December 19, 2003.

Robert Brenner,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Office of Air and Radiation.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7603-2]

Notice of Meeting of the EPA's Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that the next meeting of the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC) will be held January 14-15, 2004 at the Hotel Washington, Washington, DC. The CHPAC was created to advise the Environmental Protection Agency on science, regulations, and other issues relating to children's environmental health.

DATES: Wednesday, January 14 and the afternoon of Thursday, January 15, plenary sessions will take place; the Science and Regulatory Work Groups will meet the morning of Thursday, January 15.

ADDRESSES: Hotel Washington, 515 15th Street, NW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Joanne Rodman, Office of Children's Health Protection, USEPA, MC 1107A, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460, (202) 564-2188, rodman.joanne@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meetings of the CHPAC are open to the public. The plenary CHPAC will meet on Wednesday, January 14 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a public comment period at 4:30 p.m., and on Thursday, January 15 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Science and Regulatory Work Groups will meet Thursday, January 15 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The plenary session will open with introductions and a review of the agenda and objectives for the meeting. Agenda items include highlights of the Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP) activities and orientation for new CHPAC members. Other potential agenda items include a presentation on the Mercury MACT and the Mercury Action Plan, and a panel presentation on Smart Growth.

Dated: December 10, 2003.

Joanne K. Rodman,

Designated Federal Official.

Agenda

Wednesday, January 14, 2004

9—*Welcome, Introductions, Review Meeting Agenda*

9:30—*Highlights of Recent OCHP Activities*

10—*General Discussion: Orientation to the CHPAC*

10:45—*Break*

11—*Report from the Transition Committee: Recommended Strategic Priorities for CHPAC*

12—*Lunch (on your own)*

1:15—*Presentation: EPA's Response to the CHPAC's Smart Growth Recommendations*

2:15—*Panel: Background Briefing on Mercury MACT*

3:30—*Break*

3:45—*Discussion of Possible CHPAC Comments on Mercury*

5—*Public Comment*

5:30—*Adjourn*

Thursday, January 15, 2004

9—*Work Group Meetings*

12 *Lunch*

1:15—*Science Policy Work Group Report*

2—*Regulatory Policy Work Group Report*

4—*Wrap Up/Next Steps*

4:30—*Adjourn Plenary*

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7605-1]

Meetings of the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List Classification Process Work Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: Under section 10(a)(2) of Public Law 92-423, "The Federal Advisory Committee Act," notice is hereby given of the forthcoming meetings of the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List (CCL) Classification Process Work Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC), established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*).

DATES: The dates for the NDWAC CCL Work Group meetings will be as follows:

January 22-23, 2004; and March 4-5, 2004. All meetings will be held from 9 a.m.—5 p.m., eastern time on the first day, and 8 a.m.—3:30 p.m., eastern time on the second day.

ADDRESSES: All meetings of the CCL Work Group will be held at RESOLVE Inc., 1255 23rd Street, NW., Suite 275, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information on the location and times of these meetings, or general background information, please contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (phone: (800) 426-4791 or (703) 412-3330; e-mail: hotline-sdwa@epa.gov).

Notice will be given for any date change, or if additional meetings will be needed beyond the March meeting, as the Work Group proceeds through the year. Please contact RESOLVE at (202) 944-2300 if you plan to attend any of the meetings listed. Any person needing special accommodations at any of these meetings, including wheelchair access, should also contact RESOLVE at least five business days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. For technical information, please contact Dr. Jitendra Saxena, Designated Federal Officer, CCL Classification Process Work Group, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (4607M), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460 (e-mail: saxena.jitendra@epa.gov; phone: (202) 564-5243).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CCL serves as the primary source of priority contaminants for research and regulatory evaluations for the Agency's drinking water program. The CCL list is comprised of both chemical and microbial contaminants that are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems, that may have adverse health effects, and which, at the time of publication, are not subject to any proposed or promulgated national primary drinking water regulations. EPA has formed a CCL Classification Process Work Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) to help the Agency in developing a new risk based priority setting process based on the recommendations made by the National Research Council (NRC) in its 2001 report.

The Work Group is comprised of 21 recognized technical experts who represent an array of backgrounds and perspectives and who are as impartial and objective as possible. The Work Group is charged with discussing, evaluating, and providing advice on methodologies, activities, and analysis needed to implement the NRC

recommendations on an expanded approach for the CCL listing process. This may include advice on developing and identifying (1) an overall implementation strategy; (2) prototype classification methodology, classification attributes and criteria that should be used; (3) pilot projects to validate new classification approaches; (4) demonstration studies that explore the feasibility of the VFAR (Virulence-Factor Activity Relationships) approach; (5) risk communication issues; and (6) additional issues not addressed in the NRC report.

The Work Group has held eight meetings thus far: September 18-19, 2002; December 16-17, 2002; February 5-6, 2003; March 27-28, 2003; May 12-13, 2003; July 16-17, 2003; September 17-18, 2003; and November 13-14, 2003. The September 2002 meeting was devoted to gaining understanding of the NRC recommendations from the invited members of the NRC panel; identifying questions, issues and technical expertise needed to fulfill its charge; and, planning next steps. During subsequent meetings, the Work Group formed activity groups for small group discussions, with each group containing four to eight members; the activity groups then report back to the plenary Work Group. Each activity group holds several conference calls for more detailed group discussions in between the meetings on issues that the plenary Work Group is addressing. The Work Group has discussed methods applicable to contaminant classification and prioritization, occurrence and health effects data needed for this purpose, sources and quality of data needed, and the use of QSAR (Quantitative Structure Activity Relationships) models for providing data when experimental data is unavailable. In addition, the Work Group has held discussions about the VFAR concept and how the concept can be used for identifying high priority microbial contaminants. The Work Group has developed the groups's guiding principles, project work plan, and a tentative final report outline.

The meetings are open to the public for observation purposes only. Statements from the public will be allowed at the close of each meeting day. EPA is not soliciting written comments and is not planning to formally respond to comments.

Nanci E. Gelb,

Acting Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

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