

EPA requests that 2 paper copies of the full nomination package also be sent to EPA. Submissions submitted by mail should be sent to: Robert Wayland, Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds; Mail Code 4501T; USEPA; 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20460. Submissions delivered by courier should be sent to: Robert Wayland, Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds; USEPA; Rm. 7130; 1301 Constitution Avenue; NW, Washington, DC 20004. Mark all submissions: ATTN: EPA Watershed Initiative.

Please direct all questions to the Regional contact person and not to the watershed initiative e-mail box. Designated Agency Contacts for each Region are listed in section VI below. All nominations must be postmarked and received electronically by EPA by the November 21, 2002 deadline. Any nomination received after the deadline will not be considered. Please note that the US Government continues to experience security-related delays in US Postal Service deliveries, so the Agency encourages courier service.

VI. Agency Contacts

Region I—Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire

Contact: William Walsh-Rogalski or Lynne Hamjian, telephones 617-918-1035 and 617-918-1601; e-mails walshrogalski.william@epa.gov and hamjian.lynne@epa.gov, respectively.

Region II—New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands

Contact: Theresa Faber or Cyndy Belz, telephones 212-637-3844 and 212-637-3832; e-mails faber.theresa@epa.gov and belz.cyndy@epa.gov, respectively.

Region III—Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington, DC

Contact: Bernie Sarnoski, telephone 315-814-5756; e-mail sarnoski.bernie@epa.gov.

Region IV—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee

Contact: William L. Cox, telephone 404-562-9351; e-mail cox.williaml@epa.gov.

Region V—Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

Contact: Paul Thomas, telephone 312-886-7742; e-mail thomas.paul@epa.gov.

Region VI—Louisiana, Texas,

Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico
Contact: Brad Lamb, telephone 214-

665-6683; e-mail lamb.brad@epa.gov.

Region VII—Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska

Contact: Julie Elfving, telephone 913-551-7475; e-mail elfving.julie@epa.gov.

Region VIII—Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah

Contact: Karen Hamilton, telephone 303-312-6236; e-mail hamilton.karen@epa.gov.

Region IX—Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Mariana Islands, Guam

Contact: Sam Ziegler, telephone 415-972-3399; e-mail ziegler.sam@epa.gov.

Region X—Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

Contact: Bevin Reid, telephone 206-553-1566; e-mail reid.bevin@epa.gov.

Dated: August 14, 2002.

G. Tracy Mehan, III,

Assistant Administrator for Water.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7263-3]

Meeting of the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List Classification Process Working Group and Small Systems Affordability Working Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

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, and the Small Systems Affordability Work Group, of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. S300f *et seq.*).

DATES: The CCL work group will meet on September 18-19, 2002 (9 a.m.-5 p.m. EDT on September 18 and 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. EDT on September 19). The affordability work group will meet on September 11-12, 2002 (9 a.m.-5:15 p.m. EDT on September 11 and 8:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m. EDT on September 12).

ADDRESSES: Both meetings will be held at RESOLVE Inc., 1255 23rd Street, NW., Suite 275, Washington, DC and are

open to the public, but from past experience, seating will likely be limited.

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) 285-1093; e-mail: hotline-sdwa@epa.gov). Members of the public are requested to contact RESOLVE if they plan on attending at (202) 944-2300. Any person needing special accommodations at either of these meetings, including wheelchair access, should contact RESOLVE (contact information previously noted), at least five business days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. For technical information 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; Tel. 202-564-5243), and Mr. Amit Kapadia, Designated Federal Officer, Small Systems Affordability Work Group at the same address (e-mail: kapadia.amit@epa.gov; Tel. 202-564-4879).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Drinking Water Contaminants Candidate List Work Group Meeting

The CCL serves as the primary source of priority contaminants for research and regulatory evaluations for the Agency's drinking water program. The list is comprised of both chemical and microbial contaminants that are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems, and 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 (NPDWRs). 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 upon the recommendations made by the National Research Council (NRC) in its 2001 report.

The work group is comprised of recognized technical experts representing an array of backgrounds and perspectives who are as impartial and objective as possible. The purpose of the meeting is to provide advice to the NDWAC as it develops recommendations for the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency on the classification process EPA ought to use to develop its list of candidate contaminants. The work group is charged with discussing, evaluating, and providing advice on methodologies, activities, and analysis needed to implement the National Research Council's recommendations on an expanded approach for the CCL listing process. This may include advice on developing and identifying: (1) Overall implementation strategy, (2) classification attributes and criteria, (3) pilot projects to validate new classification approaches, (4) risk communication issues, and (5) additional issues not addressed in the NRC Report.

The first meeting of the work group will be held on September 18–19, 2002, and is open to the public for observation purposes only. Statements from the public will be taken at the close of the meeting. EPA is not soliciting written comments and is not planning to formally respond to comments. The first meeting will focus on the: (1) Review of NRC recommendations for a risk based priority ranking process for CCL contaminants, (2) development of an overall implementation strategy, (3) identification of technical expertise needed to support the process, (4) formation of technical subgroups, if deemed necessary, and (5) identification and discussion of other relevant issues.

Small Systems Affordability Work Group Meeting

As part of the 2002 appropriations process, Congress directed EPA to "begin immediately to review the Agency's affordability criteria and how small system variance and exemption programs should be implemented for arsenic" (Conference Report 107–272, page 175). Congress further directed the Agency to prepare a report, which EPA submitted, "on its review of the affordability criteria and the administrative actions undertaken or planned to be undertaken by the Agency, as well as potential funding mechanisms for small community compliance and other legislative actions, which, if taken by the Congress, would best achieve appropriate extensions of time for small communities while also guaranteeing maximum compliance." (Conference Report 107–272, page 175).

In evaluating treatment technologies for small systems, EPA currently uses an affordability threshold of 2.5% of median household income. EPA's national-level affordability criteria consist of two major components: an expenditure baseline and an

affordability threshold. The expenditure baseline (derived from annual median household water bills) is subtracted from the affordability threshold (a share of median household income that EPA believes to be a reasonable upper limit for these water bills) to determine the expenditure margin (the maximum increase in household water bills that can be imposed by treatment and still be considered affordable). EPA compares the cost of treatment technologies against the available expenditure margin to determine if an affordable compliance technology can be identified. If EPA cannot identify an affordable compliance technology, then it attempts to identify a variance technology. Findings must be made at both the Federal and State level that compliance technologies are not affordable for small systems before a variance can be granted.

EPA is asking the NDWAC for advice on its national-level affordability criteria and the methodology used to establish these criteria. Taking into consideration the structure of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the limitations of readily available data and information sources, EPA is seeking the Council's opinion of the national level affordability criteria, methodology for deriving the criteria, and approach to applying those criteria to NPDWRs.

As part of the Council's review of EPA's national-level affordability criteria, the Agency is seeking input on (1) the Agency's overall approach, (2) alternatives, if any, to the use of median household income as a metric, (3) alternatives, if any, to 2.5% as a metric, (4) alternatives, if any, to calculating the expenditure baseline, (5) the usefulness of a separate criteria for ground and surface water systems, (6) including an evaluation of the potential availability of financial assistance, and (7) the need for making affordability determinations on a regional basis. Other issue areas may also be discussed. The meeting is open to the public; statements from the public will be taken at the close of the meeting. EPA is not soliciting written comments and is not planning to formally respond to comments.

Dated: August 14, 2002.

William Diamond,

Acting Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

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COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

National Environmental Policy Act Task Force

AGENCY: Council on Environmental Quality.

ACTION: Notice extending comment period.

SUMMARY: By **Federal Register** notice of July 9, 2002 (67 FR 45510–45512), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) notified interested parties it had formed a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) task force (Task Force) and invited comment on the proposed nature and scope of NEPA Task Force activities. The Task Force seeks ways to improve and modernize NEPA analyses and documentation and foster improved coordination among all levels of government and the public, and solicits examples of effected NEPA implementation practices to develop a publication of case studies including examples of best practices.

Interested parties have requested that CEQ extend the public comment. The deadline for comments was August 23, 2002. By this notice, CEQ is extending the public comment period to September 23, 2002. Although the time for comments has been extended, CEQ requests that interested parties provide information about examples of effective NEPA implementation practices and examples of best practices as soon as possible.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted on or before September 23, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Electronic or facsimile comments are preferred because federal offices experience intermittent mail delays from security screening. Electronic written comments can be sent to the NEPA Task Force through the Web site at <http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/ntf/> which provides a form for responding to questions posed in the July 9, 2002, notice as well as a direct electronic mail link to ceq_nepa@fs.fed.us. Written comments may be faxed to the NEPA Task Force at (801) 517–1021. Written comments may also be submitted to the NEPA Task Force, P.O. Box 221150, Salt Lake City, UT 84122.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rhey Solomon by phone at (202) 456–5432.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 9, 2002, CEQ published notice in the **Federal Register** requesting public comment on current NEPA implementing practices and procedures in the following areas: technology,