

Title: EPA Strategic Plan Information on Source Water Assessment and Protection.

Abstract: Section 1453(a)(3) of the Safe Drinking Water Act requires States to submit to EPA a Source Water Assessment Program within 18 months after issuance of the national guidance on State Source Water Assessment and Protection Programs, which was issued by EPA on August 5, 1997. Upon EPA approval of the programs, States conducted source water assessments of their public water systems. The Assessment Program will be completed by States relative to the SDWA because State assessments were required under section 1453. (The burden and cost associated with any remaining assessment work has already been calculated under previous ICRs).

The EPA Strategic Plan (2003–2008) includes source water assessment and protection program measures to analyze the aggregated results of the assessments and describe the voluntary source water protection actions taken at the local or regional level, based on the assessment results. This information is collected from States to understand, in aggregate, the results of State assessments and the protection actions in each State based on those assessments, and to measure progress toward the Agency's strategic goal that, by 2008, 50% of source water areas for community water systems will achieve minimized risk to public health. ("Minimized risk" is achieved by substantial implementation, as determined by the State, of source water protection actions in a source water protection strategy.) The information is collected through EPA's Strategic Planning process. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations in 40 CFR are listed in 40 CFR part 9.

EPA is collecting, on a voluntary basis, data from the States related to the status of assessment completion, the most prevalent and most threatening sources of contamination, overall risk to source waters, and progress toward substantial implementation of prevention strategies for all community water system source water areas. This data is generated under the authority of section 1453(a)(3) of the Safe Drinking Water Act. While implementing source water protection programs is not required under the Act, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund monies under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act may be used, and is being used, for

set-aside activities to support these efforts.

The EPA would like to solicit comments to:

(i) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) Evaluate the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 81 hours per State response.

Estimated Number of Likely Respondents: 52.

Frequency of Response: Once per year.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 4,212 hours.

Estimated Total Annualized Cost Burden: \$1,122,385.

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Dated: August 12, 2004.

Cynthia C. Dougherty,

Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

[FR Doc. 04–18962 Filed 8–17–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–7803–2]

National Drinking Water Advisory Council's Water Security Working Group Meeting Announcement

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hereby announcing a meeting of the Water Security Working Group (WSWG) of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC), established under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for the WSWG members to finalize the working group ground rules, operating procedures, and project plan; to discuss coordination with other on-going efforts; and to begin deliberation on an approach to complete the WSWG charge. The WSWG members are meeting to analyze relevant issues and facts pursuant to the charge to develop recommendations for best security practices and policies for drinking water and wastewater facilities for NDWAC's consideration.

DATES: The first WSWG public meeting will take place on August 31, 2004, from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., Pacific Standard Time (PST) and September 2, 2004, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., PST. The meeting on September 1, 2004, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., PST, will be closed to the public.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Hotel Monaco Seattle, which is located at 1101 4th Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Interested participants from the public should contact Marc Santora, Designated Federal Officer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, Water Security Division (Mail Code 4601–M), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460. Please contact Marc Santora at santora.marc@epa.gov or call (202) 564–1597 to receive additional details.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The August 31 and September 2, 2004, meeting is open to the public. Statements from the public will be taken if time permits on both days. Oral statements will be limited to five minutes, and it is preferred that only one person present the statement on behalf of a group or organization.

The September 1, 2004, meeting will be closed to the public, as the

discussion will involve the disclosure of sensitive information relating to specific water sector vulnerabilities. Since the WSWG, as a working group to the NDWAC, is not a Federal advisory committee, it is not subject to the same public disclosure laws that govern NDWAC, which is a Federal advisory committee. Until the working group agrees on the protocol to be used to close any portion of future meetings, one day of this meeting (September 1, 2004) will only be open to WSWG members, Federal resource personnel, facilitation support contractors, and outside experts identified by the facilitation support contractors.

Any person needing special accommodations at this meeting, including wheelchair access, should contact Marc Santora, Designated Federal Officer, at the number or e-mail under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section, at least five business days in advance.

Background

The WSWG charge is to: (1) Identify, compile, and characterize best security practices and policies for drinking water and wastewater utilities and provide an approach for considering and adopting these practices and policies at a utility level; (2) consider mechanisms to provide recognition and incentives that facilitate a broad and receptive response among the water sector to implement these best security practices and policies and make recommendations as appropriate; (3) consider mechanisms to measure the extent of implementation of these best security practices and policies, identify the impediments to their implementation, and make recommendations as appropriate.

Dated: August 13, 2004.

Cynthia C. Dougherty,

Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

[FR Doc. 04-19006 Filed 8-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7802-4]

Science Advisory Board Staff Office; Notification of Upcoming Science Advisory Board Meetings

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office announces a public face-to-face meeting of the

chartered SAB. The Board will discuss science issues facing EPA Regions; review and approve of two SAB Committee draft reports; discuss and approve the FY 2005 SAB plans; and plan for the SAB annual meeting. The SAB Staff Office also announces a public meeting of the SAB's Committee on Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services (C-VPESS) to focus on regional science issues related to the Committee's charge.

DATES:

September 13-14, 2004. A public meeting of the Board will be held from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Pacific Time) on September 13, 2004, and from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Pacific Time) on September 14, 2004.

September 13-15, 2004. A public meeting of the C-VPESS will be held from 1 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. (Pacific Time) on September 13, 2004; from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Pacific Time) on September 14, 2004; and from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Pacific Time) on September 15, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The meetings of the Board and the C-VPESS will be held at the U.S. EPA Region 9 Headquarters Office, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Members of the public who wish to obtain further information regarding the Board may contact Mr. Thomas O. Miller, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board via phone (202-343-9982) or e-mail at miller.tom@epa.gov, or Dr. Anthony Maciorowski, Associate Director for Science, U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board via phone (202-343-9983) or e-mail at maciorowski.anthony@epa.gov.

Members of the public wishing further information regarding the C-VPESS meeting may contact Dr. Angela Nugent, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), via telephone at: (202-343-9981) or e-mail at: nugent.angela@epa.gov.

The SAB Mailing address is: U.S. EPA, Science Advisory Board (1400F), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460. General information about the SAB, as well as any updates concerning the meetings announced in this notice, may be found in the SAB Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/sab>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background on the Board Meeting: At this meeting, the Science Advisory Board will focus on the following: (a) Science programs of EPA Region 9, (b) the FY 2005 SAB plan, (c) the review of two draft SAB Panel reports, and (d) planning for the SAB Annual meeting scheduled for December 1-2, 2004. Any

additional items that might be discussed will be reflected in the meeting agenda that will be posted on the SAB website prior to the meeting.

(a) *EPA Regional Science Issues*—The SAB will receive briefings from, and discuss scientific issues, with Regional senior leadership and scientists. These are designed to (1) inform the SAB about regional science issues and concerns; (2) identify opportunities for future SAB and Regional office interactions on topics of interest; and (3) provide the regions with insights into the overall SAB role in advising the Agency on the technical underpinnings of the Agency's science and environmental decisions.

(b) *SAB FY 2005 Plan*—The Board will finalize its operational plans for FY 2005. This will include discussions of projects nominated by Agency offices and regions, projects nominated by SAB and its Committees, and its continuing information gathering activities in support of the SAB review of EPA's science budget.

(c) *Review of SAB Committee Draft Reports:* The Board will review two draft SAB reports. Reports to be considered include: (1) The SAB's draft report Review of EPA's Draft Report on the Environment 2003, and (2) SAB's draft report Report of the U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board's 3MRA Panel on the Multimedia, Multipathway, and Multireceptor Risk Assessment (3MRA) Modeling System. Information on these reviews, and drafts of each report, can be found on the SAB Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab/drrep.htm>.

(d) *Planning for the SAB Annual Meeting:* The Board will discuss its plans for its Annual Meeting of the SAB which is scheduled to be held in Washington, DC on December 1-2, 2004.

Background on the C-VPESS Meeting: Background on the Committee and its charge was provided in 68 FR 11082 (March 7, 2003). The purpose of the meeting is for the Committee to focus on regional science needs, work-products, and activities by holding panel discussions, briefings, and break-out groups. The SAB will receive briefings on issues related to the value of protecting ecological systems and services in Region 9 and discuss scientific issues, with Regional senior leadership and scientists.

All of these activities are related to the Committee's overall charge, to assess Agency needs and the state of the art and science of valuing protection of ecological systems and services, and then to identify key areas for improving knowledge, methodologies, practice, and research.