

correspondence, enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. Please submit electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Wordperfect, or ASCII (plain text) format. Avoid using special characters and encryption in your document(s). Please include your name, affiliation, address and phone number. All information provided will become part of the public record. To avoid duplication of documents in the public record, please do not send the same information by paper copy and email.

To assure we have time to review all written information before completing our assessment, please send all written information by August 23, 2000.

How and where to review written information and comments: The record for this notice has been established under docket number W-00-17 (Cruise Ships), and includes supporting documentation as well as printed versions of electronic correspondence. The record is available for inspection from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays, at the Water Docket, EB 57, USEPA Headquarters, 401 M. St., SW., Washington, DC. For access to docket materials, please call 202-260-3027.

Background: On March 17, 2000, EPA received a petition asking that EPA undertake an "assessment of the volumes and characteristics of the spectrum of waste streams from cruise ships, analysis of their potential impact on water quality, the marine environment, and human health." In response to that petition, we are assessing whether discharges from cruise ships currently pose a risk to the environment. EPA is working with the Coast Guard and other Federal agencies on this assessment.

The discharges of particular interest from cruise ships are gray water (wastewater from baths, sinks and galleys), black water (wastewater from toilets), oily bilge water, solid waste (e.g., food waste, paper, cardboard, plastic, wood, metal, glass) and wastes from equipment operations, hotel and restaurant services, photo labs, dry-cleaning, and paints.

Specific information that we are requesting for wastewater, solid waste, and hazardous materials includes:

- (1) Quantities and properties;
- (2) Methods of discharge or disposal;
- (3) Locations of discharge or disposal, such as outside of State waters, 10 miles from port, or in-port waste receptacles;
- (4) Environmental impacts; and
- (5) Existing regulatory or voluntary controls.

As we consider the range of environmental issues concerning these cruise ship discharges, we are also

interested in learning about voluntary environmental management programs and standards used by various cruise ships. We are interested in hearing about new and alternative approaches being proposed or used by the cruise ship industry or by public-private partnerships. These approaches may include: environmental management systems based on ISO 14000 and/or the International Safety Management (ISM) System Code; environmental certification programs developed by Ship Classification Societies; and local or regional Memoranda of Understanding or other agreements between the industry, government, and other stakeholders. We are interested in a comprehensive picture of how various pollution prevention programs are currently being used and how these efforts might be advanced to protect the marine environment. In addition, we are soliciting comments on whether we should consider changes to existing controls or regulations or add new regulations for control of these discharges in order to more adequately protect the environment from the effects of these discharges.

We are not attempting to collect information or comment on air emissions from cruise ships, or on possible impacts of cruise ships other than from their waste management or discharge practices, at these public information hearings.

Dated: August 7, 2000.

Robert H. Wayland III,

Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6849-2]

National and Governmental Advisory Committees to the U.S. Representative to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) gives notice of a meeting of the National Advisory Committee (NAC) and Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) to the U.S. Representative to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC).

The National and Governmental Advisory Committees advise the

Administrator of the EPA in the Administrator's capacity as the U.S. Representative to the Council of the North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation. The Committees are authorized under Articles 17 and 18 of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC), North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act, Public Law 103-182 and as directed by Executive Order 12915, entitled "Federal Implementation of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation." The Committees are responsible for providing advice to the United States Representative on a wide range of strategic, scientific, technological, regulatory and economic issues related to implementation and further elaboration of the NAAEC. The National Advisory Committee consists of 12 representatives of environmental groups and non-profit entities, business and industry, and educational institutions. The Governmental Advisory Committee consists of 12 representatives from state, local and tribal governments.

DATES: The Committees will meet on Thursday, September 7, 2000 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., and on Friday, September 8, 2000 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Embassy Suites Hotel at San Diego Bay, 601 Pacific Highway, San Diego, California. The meeting is open to the public, with limited seating on a first-come, first-served basis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Mark Joyce, Designated Federal Officer, U.S. EPA, Office of Cooperative Environmental Management, at (202) 564-9802.

Dated: July 20, 2000.

Elaine M. Koener,

Acting Designated Federal Officer.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6849-4]

Notice of Public Comment and Public Meetings Western Regional Air Partnership

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces public meetings and a request for public comment sponsored by the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP). The meetings and the request for comments

concern several documents: the draft final recommendations on a backstop emissions trading program regarding regional emissions milestones for stationary sources of sulfur dioxide (SO₂); a memorandum of understanding; and, a draft model rule. EPA is publishing this notice on behalf of the WRAP.

DATES: Please see Attachment to this notice.

ADDRESSES: Please see Attachment to this notice for public meeting locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Al Zemsky, Senior External Advisor, Air Division, [AIR-1], U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105, Telephone: (415) 744-1262.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The WRAP, comprising governors from Western states, tribal leaders and federal agency representatives, is seeking public comment on a proposal to reduce regional emissions from stationary sources of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), as well as proposed recommendations regarding a backstop emissions trading program. The comments are important for developing final recommendations for Western air quality regulations to be submitted to the U.S. EPA.

The dates, times, and locations of the public meetings and the availability of the documents to be reviewed for comment are described in the Attachment to this notice.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Dated: August 3, 2000.

John Wise,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region IX.

Attachment: Notice of Public Comment and Public Meetings; August 14–September 8, 2000

The Proposal

The Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP), comprising governors from 12 Western states, tribal leaders and federal agency representatives, is seeking public comment on a proposal to reduce regional emissions from stationary sources of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), as well as proposed recommendations regarding a backstop emissions trading program. SO₂ is an important contributor to haze in Western parks and wilderness areas. Preliminary analysis indicates that the cost of using a backstop trading program to reduce emissions will be \$50–100 million cheaper than a traditional command-and-control program. Since the largest sources of sulfur dioxide are coal-fired electric power generating plants, a backstop trading program can offset—and potentially reduce—any

increases in the cost of electricity for consumers.

To Comment

The WRAP is seeking public comment on several documents, including: (1) The draft final recommendations; (2) a memorandum of understanding; and, (3) a draft model rule. Complete details of the program are available at www.wrapair.org. The Web site contains links to submit comments via e-mail and instructions on how to join a listserve, which will automatically send an e-mail alerting subscribers that new information has been posted to the Web. If you have questions, contact either Patrick Cummins at the Western Governors' Association, 1515 Cleveland Place, Suite 200, Denver CO 80202, (303) 623-9378; or Bill Grantham at the National Tribal Environmental Council at 2221 Rio Grande NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104, (505) 242-2175.

Background

The WRAP was created as the successor organization to the Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission (GCVTC), which made over 70 recommendations in June 1996 for improving visibility in 16 national parks and wilderness areas on the Colorado Plateau. The Partnership promotes, supports and monitors implementation of those recommendations throughout the West.

Under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Regional Haze Rule, nine of the Western states have the option to comply using the GCVTC's regional visibility protection program. The optional program requires the establishment of a regional emission target for 2018, in addition to interim targets. The recommendations and options regarding the market trading program were developed over the last two years by WRAP committees comprising a diverse group of stakeholders including industry, environmental groups and academia.

Other pollutants and pollution sources—vehicles, fires, smaller industrial sources—will be addressed in programs over the next few years. The final WRAP recommendations will be submitted to EPA by October 2, 2000. EPA will consider the market trading program as part of its formal rulemaking process for the Regional Haze Rule.

Public Meetings

August 22—Santa Fe, New Mexico—7 p.m., Runnels Bldg. Auditorium, 1190 St. Francis Drive

August 24—Phoenix, Arizona—7 p.m., Room 1709-10, Arizona DEQ, 3033 N. Central

August 29—Flagstaff, Arizona—6:30 p.m., Fremont Room, Dubois Center (follow signs off McConnell Drive), Northern Arizona University, Lower Campus

August 30—Salt Lake City, Utah—7 p.m., Utah DEQ Building, Room 101, 168 N. 1950 West

August 31—Casper, Wyoming—7 p.m., Basco Building, 777 West First Street
Sept. 6—Boise, Idaho—7 p.m., Idaho DEQ, 1410 N. Hilton

(Other state and tribal public meetings may be scheduled, and will be posted to the Web site.)

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6850-4]

Draft Health Assessment Document for Diesel Exhaust

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a draft document for public review and comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the availability of a Science Advisory Board (SAB) review draft of the Health Assessment Document for Diesel Exhaust (EPA/600/8-90/057E, July 2000) for public review and comment. The document was prepared by the National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) within EPA's Office of Research and Development.

DATES: The public comment period begins August 11, 2000. Comments must be in writing and must be postmarked by September 29, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The primary distribution method for the SAB review draft document will be via the Internet on the National Center for Environmental Assessment's (NCEA) web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea> under the What's New and Publications menus. A limited number of paper copies are available from NCEA's Technical Information Staff, (telephone: 202-564-3261; facsimile: 202-565-0050; e-mail: nceadc.comment@epa.gov). If you are requesting a paper copy, please provide your name, mailing address, and the title and number of the draft, Health Assessment Document for Diesel Exhaust (EPA/600/8-90/057E, July 2000).

Comments may be mailed to: Diesel Comments, NCEA-W/TIS (8623D), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200