

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6837-1]

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) or Superfund, Section 311(b)(9)(A), CERCLA Section 311(b)(3) "Announcement of Competition for EPA's Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilots"**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency will begin accepting applications for Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilots through October 16, 2000. The application period will close October 16, 2000 and the Agency intends to competitively select ten Pilots by December 2000. All funding will be contingent upon availability of appropriated funds.

DATES: This action is effective July 17, 2000. All proposals must be received by October 16, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Interested applicants must submit a response to the Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot Guidelines. Job training guidelines can be obtained via the Internet: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>, or by calling the Superfund Hotline at 1-800-424-9346 (TDD for the hearing impaired at 1-800-553-7672).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Myra Blakely, Outreach and Special Projects Staff, (202) 260-4527 or Doris Thompson at (202) 260-4483.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilots will each be funded up to \$200,000 over two-years. These funds are to be used to bring together community groups, job training organizations, employers, investors, lenders, developers, and other affected parties to address the issue of providing training for residents in communities impacted by brownfields. The goals of the pilots are to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites contaminated with hazardous substances and prepare the trainees for future employment in the environmental field. The pilot projects must prepare trainees in activities that can be usefully applied to a cleanup employing an alternative or innovative technology.

EPA expects to select approximately 10 Brownfields Environmental Job Training and Development pilots by the end of December 2000. Pilot applicants must be located within or near one of the 362 pre-2001 brownfields assessment pilot communities. Colleges, universities, non-profit training centers, community-based job training organizations, states, cities, towns, counties, U.S. Territories, and Federally recognized Indian Tribes are eligible to apply for funds. EPA welcomes and encourages applications from coalitions of such entities, but a single eligible entity must be identified as the legal recipient. Entities with experience in providing environmental job training and placement programs are invited to apply. The deadline for applications is October 16, 2000.

EPA's Brownfields Initiative is an organized commitment to help communities revitalize abandoned contaminated properties, and to thereby eliminate potential health risks and restore economic vitality to areas where these properties exist. EPA defines brownfields as abandoned, idled or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

Submission to Congress and the General Accounting Office

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. EPA will submit a report containing this action and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of the rule in the **Federal Register**. This action is not a "major rule" as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Dated: July 10, 2000.

Barbara Bassuener,

Acting Director, Outreach and Special Projects Staff, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6837-3]

Focus Group Meeting on Draft Reference Guide for Public Participation in Permitting Programs**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency is drafting a Reference Guide (Guide) of the requirements and recommended best practices in public participation for use by states authorized to implement the air, water, and waste permitting programs. The purpose of this focus group meeting is to exchange information on the development and content of the Guide and to seek feedback with the expected outcomes of refining the Guide and the methods for distributing it. Comments and questions from the general public will also be discussed at this meeting. The authority to issue this notice is in the EPA Policy on Public Participation, published on January 19, 1981 at 46 FR 5736.

DATES: The meeting date is Tuesday, August 1, 2000 at the Houston Laboratory. To accommodate the wide range of schedules from all interested parties, two sessions will be held. The first session will be from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and then 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m (CST).

ADDRESSES: Environmental Protection Agency Laboratory, 10625 Fallstone Rd., Houston, Texas 77099, phone, 281-983-2100.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David S. Nicholas, U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW (5103) Washington DC 20460, phone: (202) 260-4512, facsimile: (202) 401-1496 or email: nicholas.david@epa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Guide describes the current public participation requirements within the EPA programs and discusses how all permitting programs can effectively inform and involve the public during the permitting process. This document has undergone significant review by EPA's media program offices as well as the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) and the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC). In addition, a focus group meeting was held in Washington DC on June 26, and was attended by a number of associations with permitting expertise, environmental groups, and industry. The purpose of these focus group meetings is to obtain comments on what

information needs to be in the Guide in order for it to be a valuable resource. While the Guide will be available to the public and to regulated entities, the primary audience for the Guide is the regulating community, specifically the states and tribes that are authorized to implement these programs. To prepare for the upcoming meeting participants should focus their review and comments around these questions:

(1) Are the events, processes, and/or milestones that occur in the permitting process that currently provide meaningful public involvement accurately described in the Guide?

(2) Are there any lessons you have learned in the permitting process that lend themselves to developing a comprehensive effective strategy for community involvement (milestones, steps, key principles/actions)?

(3) Are there any potential regulatory gaps in existing public participation activities?

As a point of clarification, this public participation Guide does not address Title VI issues. It is important to note that while EPA's Office of Civil Rights plans to hold a public listening session to receive comments on the new Title VI Guidance document in Dallas, Texas, these are separate EPA initiatives. Again, the Guide that will be discussed at the August 1 meeting will only address public participation activities within the context of EPA's existing permitting regulations.

Individuals requiring special accommodation at this meeting, including wheelchair access to the conference room, should contact EPA at least five business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Dated: July 7, 2000.

Timothy Fields, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6837-7]

Science Advisory Board; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meetings

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given of two meetings of Committees of the US EPA Science Advisory Board on the dates and times noted below. All times noted are Eastern Daylight Time. All meetings are open to

the public, however, seating is limited and available on a first come basis. *Important Notice:* Documents that are the subject of SAB reviews are normally available from the originating EPA office and are not available from the SAB Office—information concerning availability of documents from the relevant Program Office is included below.

1. Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC) Teleconference—August 1, 2000

The Science Advisory Board's (SAB) Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC) will conduct a public teleconference meeting on Tuesday, August 1, 2000, between the hours of 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time). The meeting will be coordinated through a conference call connection in Room 6013 in the Ariel Rios Building North, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004 (adjacent to the escalator to the Federal Triangle Metro Station on 12th Street NW). The public is welcome to attend the meeting in person or through a telephonic link, to the extent that lines are available (phone lines will be very limited). Additional instructions about how to participate in the conference call can be obtained by calling Ms. Diana Pozun at (202) 564-4544, or via e-mail at: pozun.diana@epa.gov by Thursday, July 27, 2000.

Purpose of the Meeting—At this meeting the RAC plans to review and recap the EPA's response to the Committee's Low Activity Mixed Waste Advisory (EPA-SAB-RAC-ADV-99-006), receive a brief overview presentation on a Multi-Agency Radiation Laboratory Analytical Protocols (MARLAP) Manual by the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (SAB Project 00-22), and tentatively have a discussion on RAC FY2001 self-initiated projects and other Agency proposed FY2001 projects.

Availability of Review Materials: Single copies of the EPA response to the RAC's Low Activity Mixed Waste Advisory (EPA-SAB-RAC-ADV-99-006) USEPA are available from Ms. Diana Pozun, Radiation Advisory Committee, Science Advisory Board (1400A), U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460. Ms. Pozun can also be reached by telephone at (202) 564-4544, fax at (202) 501-0582, or e-mail:

pozun.diana@epa.gov. The Committee's report (EPA-SAB-RAC-ADV-99-006) is available on the SAB Website (www.epa.gov/sab) under the *Reports* heading. An electronic copy of the overview of MARLAP is available at the website address: <http://www.epa.gov/radiation/marlap/> by clicking on the underlined hotlink titled "Introduction to MARLAP".

For Further Information: Members of the public desiring additional information about the meeting should contact Ms. Melanie Medina-Metzger, Designated Federal Officer, Radiation Advisory Committee, Science Advisory Board (1400A), Suite 6450, U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460; telephone/voice mail at (202) 564-5987; fax at (202) 501-0582; or via e-mail at medina-metzger.melanie@epa.gov. A copy of the draft agenda is available from Ms. Diana Pozun at (202) 564-4544 or by FAX at (202) 501-0582 or via e-mail at pozun.diana@epa.gov. Members of the public who wish to make a brief oral presentation to the Committee (in Room 6013 only) must contact Ms. Medina-Metzger in writing (by letter or by fax—see previously stated information) no later than 12 noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, July 28, 2000 in order to be included on the Agenda. Public comments will be limited to five minutes per speaker or organization; 15 minutes total. The request should identify the name of the individual making the presentation, and the organization (if any) that they will represent. *Please note:* If we receive more requests than we can accommodate, time of receipt of the materials at the office will determine priority, with the first three requests granted time (additional requests may be granted to the extent that time is available, as determined by the RAC Chair at the time of the meeting). All others will have to provide written comments. Written comments of any length may be submitted to Ms. Medina-Metzger at any time until the date of the meeting.

2. Drinking Water Committee (DWC) Meeting—August 8-9, 2000

The Drinking Water Committee of the US EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB), will meet on August 8 and 9, 2000 in Room 120/126 of the Andrew W. Breidenbach Environmental Research Center, 26 West Martin Luther King Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45268; telephone (513) 569-7772. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. on August 8 and adjourn no later than 3:00 p.m. on August 9, 2000.

Purpose of the Meeting—The Drinking Water Committee will conduct a review of EPA's draft research plan in support of the Safe Drinking Water Act's Candidate Contaminant Listing (CCL) program. The Committee will also complete its deliberations on the EPA proposed arsenic drinking water