

for determining whether or not they do. Conformity to a SIP means that transportation activities will not produce new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the national ambient air quality standards.

The criteria by which we determine whether a SIP's motor vehicle emission budgets are adequate for conformity purposes are outlined in 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4). Please note that an adequacy review is separate from EPA's completeness review, and it also should not be used to prejudge EPA's ultimate approval of the SIP. Even if we find a budget adequate, the SIP could later be disapproved.

We've described our process for determining the adequacy of submitted SIP budgets in guidance (May 14, 1999 memo titled "Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999 Conformity Court Decision"). We followed this guidance in making our adequacy determination.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401-7671 q.

Dated: April 6, 2000.

William J. Muszynski,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 2.

[FR Doc. 00-11432 Filed 5-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6602-6]

Office of Research and Development Board of Scientific Counselors Notice of Charter Renewal

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of charter renewal.

The Charter for the Environmental Protection Agency's Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) will be renewed for an additional two-year period, as a necessary committee which is in the public interest, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. section 9(c). The purpose of the BOSC is to provide advice and recommendations to the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Research and Development (ORD) on issues associated with ORD's research program. It is determined that the BOSC is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Agency by law. Inquiries may be directed to Shirley Hamilton, Designated Federal Officer, U.S. EPA, Office of Research and Development

(mail code 8701-R), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460.

Dated: May 3, 2000.

Peter W. Preuss,

Director, National Center for Environmental Research.

[FR Doc. 00-11434 Filed 5-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6600-7]

Notice of Sixth Meeting of the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; announcement meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the Sixth Meeting of the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force. The purpose of this Task Force consisting of Federal, State, and Tribal members, is to lead efforts to coordinate and support nutrient management and hypoxia-related activities in the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico watersheds. The major matter to be discussed at the meeting is what should be included in a draft Action Plan which will be available for public comment. This plan of action is required by section 604(b) of the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research Control Act (Public Law 105-383—Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998). The public will be afforded an opportunity to provide input to the Task Force during open discussion periods. The room accommodates approximately 125 people. Those who plan to make a statement are asked to indicate their intention to Dr. Belefski (Contact Information below).

DATES: The meeting will be held at 1 p.m.-5 p.m., June 15, 2000, and 8 a.m.-12 p.m., June 16, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the St. Louis Marriott Pavilion Downtown Hotel, One Broadway, St. Louis, MO; (314) 421-1776 or 1(800) 228-9290.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Mary Belefski, U.S. EPA, Assessment and Watershed Protection Division (AWPD), Mail Code 4503F, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460, telephone (202)-260-7061; Internet: belefski.mary@epa.gov. For additional information on hotel accommodations contact Marquetta Davis, Tetra Tech, Inc., 10306 Eaton Place, Suite 340, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, telephone: (703)

385-6000; Internet: davisma@tetrattech-ffx.com.

Dated: May 2, 2000.

Robert Wayland,

Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds.

[FR Doc. 00-11429 Filed 5-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6600-6]

Project XL Proposed Final Project Agreement: Georgia-Pacific Corporation Big Island, Virginia XL Project

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: EPA is requesting comments on a proposed Project XL Final Project Agreement (FPA) for the Georgia-Pacific Corporation Big Island, Virginia XL Project (hereafter "Georgia-Pacific"). The FPA is a voluntary agreement developed collaboratively by Georgia-Pacific, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ), the USDA Forest Service (FS) and the EPA. Project XL, announced in the **Federal Register** on May 23, 1995 (60 FR 27282), gives regulated entities the flexibility to develop alternative strategies that will replace or modify specific regulatory or procedural requirements on the condition that they produce greater environmental benefits. EPA has set a goal of implementing fifty XL projects undertaken in full partnership with the states.

Georgia-Pacific Corporation owns and operates a non-sulfur, non-bleaching, semi-chemical pulp and paper mill in Big Island, Virginia (Mill). The Mill produces corrugated medium and liner board (the inside and outside components of cardboard) from hardwood pulp and secondary recycled fiber. The Mill is subject to the Pulp and Paper Mill Cluster Rule (a hazardous air pollution standard promulgated under the federal Clean Air Act (CAA)), which is based on installation of Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) on regulated emission sources. A second MACT standard applicable to pulp and paper mills (MACT II), was proposed on April 15, 1998 to specifically address emissions from combustion sources associated with the recovery of pulping chemicals. At the Mill pulping liquor is added to hardwood chips, and the mixture is passed through digesters to produce the pulp. Currently the Mill

takes the spent pulping or black liquor, reduces it through evaporation, and flame combusts the resultant concentrated liquor in two "smelters," also called "recovery furnaces." The smelters recover the sodium carbonate in a molten smelt that is then dissolved in water to produce new pulping liquor.

Due to the age and physical condition of the existing smelters at the Mill, to comply with MACT II Georgia-Pacific would have to substantially upgrade or rebuild these units and add additional emission control devices. Alternatively, they would need to replace the smelters with a new recovery boiler that uses conventional technology. Georgia-Pacific has investigated, and proposes to install, a third alternative for recovering pulping chemicals at its facility, using an innovative black liquor gasification system. Under this alternative, the concentrated black liquor would be pyrolyzed (thermal conversion of organic compounds) to liberate a combustible gas (primarily hydrogen), which in turn would be burned as an energy source to drive the pyrolysis and to produce steam to be used elsewhere in the Big Island facility. Sodium carbonate pellets would be recovered during this process for reuse in fresh pulping liquor.

Georgia-Pacific's proposed installation of a black liquor gasification system would be the first commercial application of this innovative gasification technology in the United States. Deployment of the proposed gasification technology promises reduced consumption of fossil fuel, increased efficiency in energy conversion and chemical recovery, elimination of the smelt-water explosion hazard (inherent to the operation of conventional recovery boilers), reduced maintenance costs, and significantly lower environmental emissions of criteria pollutants (particulate, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds precursors to ozone), carbon monoxide, hazardous air pollutants, and greenhouse gases. If Georgia-Pacific experiences no problems or delays in construction and testing of the gasification technology, Georgia-Pacific expects that its gasifier could be operational in time to meet the MACT II standards when they become effective. However, Georgia-Pacific is pursuing an XL Project for its Mill for the following reasons:

(1) to be able to operate the existing smelters past the otherwise applicable MACT II compliance date, if necessary, while the gasification system is brought on line and during a limited trial of the gasification system using black liquor from Kraft pulp mills;

(2) to assure that if the gasification system fails, Georgia-Pacific would be allowed to operate its existing smelters, as necessary, past the otherwise applicable MACT II compliance date while it constructs a conventional recovery boiler; and

(3) to allow the steam generated by the new process to be utilized elsewhere at the Mill.

This project does not include modifications to production areas of the Mill. This project is not intended to increase pulp or paper production. The new gasification system will be similar in capacity to the existing smelters. Due to the extensive nature of the stateholder process conducted by Georgia-Pacific on this project, the comment period will be 14 days.

DATES: The period for submission of comments ends on May 22, 2000.

ADDRESSEES: All comments on the proposed Final Project Agreement should be sent to: Steven Donohue, EPA Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029, or David Beck, Mail Drop 10 EPA Research Triangle Park, NC 27711. Comments may also be faxed to Mr. Donohue at (215) 814-2783 or to Mr. Beck at (919) 541-2464. Comments may also be received via electronic mail sent to: donohue.steve@epa.gov or beck.david@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To obtain a copy of the proposed Final Project Agreement or a Fact Sheet, contact: Steven Donohue, EPA Region III 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029, or David Beck, Mail Drop 10 EPA Research Triangle Park, NC 27711. The FPA and related documents are also available via the Internet at the following location: <http://www.epa.gov/ProjectXL>. In addition, public files on the project, including the FPA, are located in the Big Island Public Library, 1111 Schooldays Road, Big Island, VA 24526 (804) 299-5604 and in the Amherst County Public Library, P.O. Box 370, Amherst, Virginia 24521 (804) 946-9388. Questions to EPA regarding the documents can be directed to Steven Donohue at (215) 814-3215 or David Beck at (919) 541-5421. To be included on the Georgia-Pacific Project XL mailing list for information about future public meetings, XL progress reports and other mailings from Georgia-Pacific on the XL project, contact Pat Moore, Georgia-Pacific Corporation, P.O. Box 40 Highway 501 North, Big Island, Virginia 24526 (804) 299-5911 ext. 286. For information on all other aspects of the XL Program contact Christopher Knopes at the following address: Office of

Policy, Economics and Innovation, United States Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW Room M3802 (Mail Code 1802), Washington, DC 20460. Additional information on Project XL, including documents referenced in this notice, other EPA policy documents related to Project XL, regional XL contacts, application information, and descriptions of existing XL projects and proposals, is available via the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/ProjectXL>.

Dated: May 2, 2000.

Elizabeth A. Shaw,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Reinvention Programs.

[FR Doc. 00-11428 Filed 5-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6586-7]

Water Pollution Control; Program Modification Application by Wisconsin to Administer the Sludge Management (Biosolids) Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of application and public comment period.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 40 CFR 123.62 and 40 CFR part 501, the State of Wisconsin has submitted to EPA an application to modify the existing Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) program to include administration and enforcement of the sludge management (biosolids) program where it has jurisdiction. Specifically, the State is seeking approval of a sludge management program which addresses the land application of sludge, surface disposal of sludge, and the landfilling of sludge. Wisconsin is not seeking approval for the incineration of sludge or the land application of septage. The state's sludge management program will not extend to "Indian Country" as defined in 18 U.S.C. 1151, and will not include lands within the exterior boundaries of Indian reservations within or abutting the State of Wisconsin, as they are not seeking approval for these areas at this time. According to the state's proposal, this program would be administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).

The application from Wisconsin is complete and is available for inspection and copying. Public comments are requested and encouraged.