

[FRL-5536-4]

**Notice of Availability of Permits Improvement Team; Concept Paper on Environmental Permitting and Task Force Recommendations; Final Draft Recommendation**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of the document "Concept Paper on Environmental Permitting and Task Force Recommendations" and the Agency's request for stakeholder comment. As part of the Administration's program to "Reinvent Environmental Regulation," the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency created a Permits Improvement Team (PIT) to evaluate the Agency's permitting programs, those administered by states, tribes and local agencies and those administered directly by EPA, and to develop recommendations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the permitting process.

**DATES:** Written comments must be postmarked or submitted by hand or electronically by no later than September 3, 1996. Due to the previous stakeholder involvement in the development of the PIT recommendations, including the recent (May 10, 1996) Federal Register notice, this comment period will not be extended. Thus, this is the final opportunity for public comment on these recommendations.

**ADDRESSES:** To submit comments, the public must send an original and two copies to Docket Number F-96-PT2A-FFFFF, located at the RCRA Docket. The official address is: RCRA Information Center, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (5035W), 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Although the mailing address for the RCRA Information Center has not changed, the office was physically moved in November 1995. Therefore, hand-delivered comments should be taken to the new address: 1235 Jefferson Davis Highway, First Floor, Arlington, Virginia. (Also see the section under "Supplementary Information" regarding the paperless office effort for submitting public comments.) The RCRA Information Center is open for public inspection and copying of supporting information from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays. The public must make

an appointment to review docket materials by calling (703) 603-9230. The public may copy a maximum of 100 pages from any regulatory document at no cost. Additional copies cost \$0.15 per page.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Lance Miller, PIT Executive Director at Permits Improvement Team, Mail Stop 100, 2890 Woodbridge Ave., Edison NJ 08837, phone: (908) 321-6782.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Availability of Document**

The PIT Concept Paper on Environmental Permitting and Task Force Recommendations follows this notice. In addition, the document can be obtained via the internet at 'gopher://gopher.epa.gov' or 'http://www.epa.gov'. After reaching either of these internet sites, locate the search function and type 'Permit Improvement Team' to locate the Concept Paper on Environmental Permitting and Task Force Recommendations.

**Background Information**

The PIT was established in July 1994 and is composed of representatives from EPA Headquarters and Regional offices and state, tribal and local permitting agencies. The PIT held numerous stakeholder meetings to solicit input on the most critical permitting issues as well as to obtain feedback on the PIT's initial recommendations.

Although significant input on the PIT's recommendations has been received through the stakeholder meetings, a final opportunity to review and comment on the recommendations is being provided to ensure that all stakeholders have an opportunity to participate in the development of the significant change in direction for permitting programs that is being contemplated. The Agency intends to use the concept paper on environmental permitting as an overall guide for reforms to permit programs, where appropriate. The individual recommendations contained in the document will be considered by program and regional offices as they develop specific plans in response to the concepts discussed in the PIT recommendations. These plans will include providing assistance to states and tribes that choose to consider and implement appropriate permit reform. As specific program changes are developed, opportunities for stakeholder input will be provided. It is anticipated that stakeholders will use the final concept paper, as well as other relevant documents and authorities

such as applicable statutes, in their review of specific permit program changes. This will help to provide all stakeholders with a common context when commenting on these specific changes.

For some permitting programs, minor changes may be needed to implement many of the concepts specified in the document; while other programs may require more significant modifications. Some of these modifications may also require changes to statutes and regulations and could necessitate technical research and analysis prior to revising permit programs to conform with the recommendations. Therefore, the time-frame to implement the recommendations could range from several months to many years. The Agency notes that current permitting systems were developed over the last three decades, and that changes need to be made within the existing systems while they evolve to the approach envisioned in the concept paper. Furthermore, as implementation proceeds, it is likely that some of the concepts will require revision based on new information.

***Paperless Office Effort***

EPA is asking prospective commenters to voluntarily submit one additional copy of their comments on labeled personal computer diskettes in ASCII (TEXT) format or a word processing format that can be converted to ACSII (TEXT). It is essential to specify on the disk label the word processing software and version/edition as well as the commenter's name. This will allow EPA to convert the comments into one of the word processing formats utilized by the Agency. Please use mailing envelopes designed to physically protect the submitted diskettes. EPA emphasizes that submission of comments on diskettes is not mandatory, nor will it result in any advantage or disadvantage to any commenter. Rather, EPA is experimenting with this procedure as an attempt to expedite our internal review and response to comments. This expedited procedure is in conjunction with the Agency "Paperless Office" campaign.

Elliott P. Laws,

*Designated Federal Official.*

[FR Doc. 96-18196 Filed 7-18-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

[FRL-5539-7]

**Notice of Proposed Administrative Cost Recovery Settlement Pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.**ACTION:** Notice; request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with Section 122(I) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended ("CERCLA"), notice is hereby given of a proposed administrative cost recovery settlement under Section 122(h)(1) of CERCLA concerning the Midwest United Industries, Inc. Site in Greenville, Ohio, which was signed by the Superfund Division Director of EPA, Region V, on June 6, 1996. The settlement resolves an EPA claim under Section 107(a) of CERCLA against Arthur Dearing and Midwest United Industries, Inc. The settlement requires the settling parties to pay \$5,000 to the Hazardous Substances Superfund.

For thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this notice, the Agency will receive written comments relating to the settlement. The Agency will consider all comments received and may modify or withdraw its consent to the settlement if comments received disclose facts or considerations which indicate that the settlement is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate. The Agency's response to any comments received will be available for public inspection at the Greenville Public Library, 520 Sycamore St., Greenville, Ohio 45331, and at the U.S. EPA, Records Center, Room 714, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before August 19, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** The proposed settlement and additional background information relating to the settlement are available for public inspection at U.S. EPA, Records Center, Room 714, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604. A copy of the proposed settlement may be obtained from U.S. EPA, Office of Regional Counsel, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604. Comments should reference the Midwest United Industries, Inc. Site, Greenville, Ohio and EPA Docket No. V-W-96-C-355 and should be addressed to Ms. Maria Gonzalez, U.S. EPA, Office of Regional Counsel (Mail Code: CS-29A), 77 West

Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Maria Gonzalez, U.S. EPA, Office of Regional Counsel (CS-29A), 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, 60604, (312) 886-6630.

Valdas V. Adamkus,  
*Regional Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 96-18385 Filed 7-18-96; 8:45 am]

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[FRL-5539-6]

**Proposed de Minimis Settlement Pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as Amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act—Hansen Container Site, Grand Junction, Colorado****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.**ACTION:** Notice and request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the requirements of section 122 (i)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended (CERCLA), notice is hereby given of a proposed de minimis settlement under section 122(g), concerning the Hansen Container site in Grand Junction, Colorado (Site). The proposed Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) requires two (2) Potentially Responsible Parties to Pay an aggregate total of \$17,874.57 to address their liability to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) related to response actions taken or to be taken at the Site.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT:** Comments must be submitted by no later than August 19, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** The proposed settlement is available for public inspection at the EPA Superfund Record Center, 999 18th Street, 5th Floor, North Tower, Denver, Colorado. Comments should be addressed to Maureen O'Reilly, Enforcement Specialist, (8ENF-T), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 999 18th Street, Suite 500, Denver, Colorado, 80202-2405, and should reference the Hansen Container de minimis settlement (95-13).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Maureen O'Reilly, Enforcement Specialist, at (303) 312-6402.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice of section 122(g) de minimis settlement: In

accordance with section 122(i)(1) of CERCLA, notice is hereby given that the terms of an Administrative Order on Consent (ARC) have been agreed to by the following two (2) parties, for the following amounts (in alphabetical order):

United States Bureau of Reclamation—\$117.94

United States General Services Administration—\$17,756.63

Total—\$17,874.57

By the terms of the proposed AOC, these parties will together pay \$17,874.57 to the Hazardous Substance Superfund. This payment represents approximately .003% of the total anticipated costs for the Site upon which this settlement is based.

In exchange for payment, EPA will provide the settling parties with a limited covenant not to sue for liability under sections 106 and 107(a) of CERCLA, including liability for EPA's past costs, the cost of the remedy, and future EPA oversight costs, and under section 7003 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended (also known as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act).

The amount that each individual PRP will pay, as shown above, reflects the number of drums that each PRP sent to the Site that had hazardous materials in them. The cost per drum is \$3.24. The total amount of settlement dollars owed by each party to the settlement was arrived at by multiplying the price per drum by the number of drums a party sent to the Site (Base Amount) plus a premium payment of 30% of the Base Amount.

For a period of thirty (30) days from the date of this publication, the public may submit comments to EPA relating to this proposed de minimis settlement.

A copy of the proposed AOC may be obtained from Maureen O'Reilly (8ENF-T), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, 999 18th Street, Suite 500, Denver, Colorado 80202-2405, (303) 312-6402. Additional background information relating to the de minimis settlement is available for review at the Superfund Record Center at the above address.

It Is So Agreed.

Dated: July 12, 1996.

Jack W. McGraw,

*Acting Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII.*

[FR Doc. 96-18386 Filed 7-18-96; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE** 6560-50-M