

MD-12, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711. When a draft agenda is developed, a copy can be downloaded from the Ozone/Particulate Matter/Regional Haze FACA Bulletin Board, which is located on the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards Technology Transfer Network (OAQPS TTN) or by contacting Ms. Denise M. Gerth at 919-541-5550.

Dated: August 29, 1996.

John S. Seitz,

*Director, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards*

[FR Doc. 96-23221 Filed 9-10-96; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5608-6]

### Notice of Public Meetings on Drinking Water Issues

Notice is hereby given that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is holding a two-day public meeting on September 26 and 27, 1996, for the purpose of informal information exchange on issues related to the development of rules to address microbial contaminants and disinfectants/disinfection by-products in drinking water. Topics at the meeting will include: (1) a discussion of Microbial/Disinfection By-products (M/DBP) policy alternatives, and (2) a review of current and future health effects research for disinfectants/disinfection by-products. The meeting will be preceded by a one-day technical meeting on September 25, 1996, to discuss identification of data sub-sets to be developed from sample collection and analytical activities under the Information Collection Rule issued on May 14, 1996. These will be used to help support future M/DBP rule development.

EPA is inviting all interested members of the public to participate in these and subsequent information exchange meetings on microbial contaminants and disinfectants/disinfection by-products in drinking water. The September 26 and 27 meeting will be held at the Center for Environmental Dispute Resolution (RESOLVE), 2828 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D.C. A limited number of phone lines will be available for this meeting to enable attendance by teleconference. The technical meeting on September 25 will also be held in Washington D.C. at the Sheraton City Center Hotel, 1143 New Hampshire Avenue, Northwest. Because of

limitations on conference room seating, members of the public who are interested in attending on any of these days are requested to contact Elizabeth Corr of EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water at (202) 260-8907 prior to the day of the meeting.

Members of the public who wish to be notified of future meetings should also contact Elizabeth Corr.

Dated: September 6, 1996.

Cynthia C. Dougherty,

*Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.*

[FR Doc. 96-23219 Filed 9-10-96; 8:45 am]

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[FRL-5607-9]

### Extension of Comment Period for the Notice of Availability and Request for Comments on the Permit Improvement Team's Concept Paper on Environmental Permitting and Task Force Recommendations

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments; extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Agency) is extending the comment period for the Permit Improvement Team's Concept Paper on Environmental Permitting and Task Force Recommendations, which appeared in the Federal Register on July 19, 1996 (see 61 FR 37744). The public comment period was to end on September 3, 1996. The purpose of this notice is to extend the comment period an additional 30 days beyond that, to end on October 3, 1996. This extension of the comment period is provided to allow commenters an opportunity to comment further on the concept paper.

**DATES:** EPA will accept public comments on the concept paper and recommendations until October 3, 1996. Comments postmarked after the close of the comment period will be stamped "late."

**ADDRESSES:** 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 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 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 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 the 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.

James Mathews,

*Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.*

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[FRL-5604-7]

#### **State Program Requirements; Approval of Application by Louisiana To Administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program; Louisiana**

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

**ACTION:** Final Approval of the Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Under CWA.

**SUMMARY:** On August 27, 1996, the Regional Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, approved the application by the State of Louisiana to administer and enforce the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for regulating discharges of pollutants into waters within the state. The authority to approve state programs is provided to EPA in Section 402(b) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) program will operate in lieu of the EPA administered NPDES program pursuant to Section 402 of the CWA. In making its decision, EPA has considered all comments and issues raised during the publicly noticed comment period.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Because CWA § 301(a) prohibits new discharges until they are authorized by an NPDES permit, this action is effective August 27, 1996 to avoid further suspension of permitting actions in Louisiana and the unnecessary burden such a suspension would impose on new dischargers.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Ellen Caldwell at U.S. EPA, Region 6, Water Quality Protection Division, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202, or by calling (214) 665-7513, or electronically at

CALDWELL.ELLEN@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV;

or Ms. Barbara Bevis at the Office of Water Resources, LDEQ, P.O. Box 82215, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70884-2215, or by calling (504) 765-2740, or electronically at BARBARA\_B@DEQ.STATE.LA.US.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Louisiana's application was described in the Federal Register (61 FR 15258) on April 5, 1996, in which EPA requested comments. Notices of EPA's proposal to approve the LPDES program were also

published on April 8, 1996, in The Advertiser (Lafayette, La.); The Alexandria Daily Town Talk (Alexandria, La.); The Shreveport Times (Shreveport, La.); The Times-Picayune (New Orleans, La.); The Lake Charles American Press (Lake Charles, La.); The Courier (Houma, La.); The News Star (Monroe, La.); and The Baton Rouge Advocate (Baton Rouge, La.). Copies of the application were made available at the addresses below and could also be purchased from the state for the cost of \$108.00. EPA provided copies of the public notice to permitted facilities, Indian tribes, and other federal and state agencies.

Both a public meeting and hearing were held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on May 9, 1996. The meeting (provided as an informal question and answer session), began at 3:00 pm and ended at 4:30 pm. The hearing started at 7:00 pm and lasted until 8:17 pm. Oral comments were recorded during the hearing and entered into EPA's official record. Written comments were accepted by EPA through May 27, 1996 (the original comment period, which was to end May 20, 1996, was extended to May 27, 1996, at the request of commenters). EPA's response to the issues raised during the comment period are contained in the Responsiveness Summary contained in this notice. A copy of EPA's decision and its Responsiveness Summary has been sent to all commenters and interested parties.

The LPDES program description and agency agreements continue to be available to the public at the following internet address: <http://WWW.DEQ.STATE.LA.US>—select Office of Water Resources.

Copies of the final program documents for the LPDES program are also available to the public during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, at:

EPA Region 6, 12th Floor Library, 1446 Ross Avenue Dallas, Texas 75202, (214) 665-7513

LDEQ Headquarters, 7290 Bluebonnet, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2215, (504) 765-2740

LDEQ Acadiana Regional Office, 100 Asma Blvd., Suite 151, Lafayette, LA 70508, (318) 262-5584

LDEQ Bayou Lafourche Regional Office, 104 Lococo Drive, Raceland, LA 70394, (504) 532-6206

LDEQ Capitol Regional Office, 11720 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70817-1720, (504) 295-8583

LDEQ Kisatchie Central Regional Office, 402 Rainbow Drive, Bldg. 402, Pineville, LA 71360, (318) 487-5656