

tourism, in Antarctica for which the United States is required to give advance notice under paragraph 5 of Article VII of the Antarctic Treaty of 1959, and (2) coordination of the review of information regarding environmental impact assessments received by the United States from other Parties to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty. These final regulations will be prepared pursuant to the Antarctic Science, Tourism, and Conservation Act of 1996. EPA invites comments and suggestions on the scope of the rulemaking and analysis including the environmental and regulatory issues to be addressed in the EIS.

DATES: The EPA will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, July 8, 1997, from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM, at the Arlington Hilton Hotel, 950 North Stafford Street, Arlington, Virginia, Meeting Title: EPA Public Scoping Meeting, to receive public input, either verbal or written, on relevant environmental and regulatory issues which EPA should address in the Draft EIS. Written comments from the public may also be sent directly to EPA to the contacts listed below and will be accepted by EPA through July 15, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO BE PLACED ON THE PROJECT MAILING LIST CONTACT: Mr. Joseph Montgomery or Ms. Katherine Biggs, Office of Federal Activities (2252A), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone: (202)564-7157 or (202)564-7144, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Scoping Meeting Agenda and Public Comments

10:00–12:00 AM—Overview and Discussion of Interim Final Rule for Environmental Impact Assessment of Nongovernmental Activities in Antarctica

12:00–1:30 PM—Break

1:30–6:00 PM

- a. Presentation of comments by the public on relevant environmental and regulatory issues which EPA should address in the Draft EIS
- b. Open discussion of comments and issues presented by the public and as proposed in EPA's Notice of Intent published May 9, 1997 (**Federal Register**/Vol. 62, No. 90/Friday, May 9, 1997/25611–25613)

An integral part of the NEPA process is public participation in the Scoping process, the key purpose of which is early identification of the environmental and regulatory issues and alternatives to be addressed in the Draft EIS. The

public will also have an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS and the proposed Final Rule which are anticipated to be made available in January 1998.

II. Background

The Antarctic Science, Tourism, and Conservation Act of 1996 (Act) implements the Protocol on Environmental Protection (Protocol) to the Antarctic Treaty (Treaty). Pursuant to the Act, the EPA is required to promulgate regulations by October 2, 1998, that provide for assessment of the environmental impacts of nongovernmental activities, including tourism, in Antarctica and for coordination of the review of information regarding environmental impact assessments received from other Parties to the Protocol. The EPA promulgated an Interim Final Rule on April 30, 1997, (**Federal Register**/Vol. 62, No. 83/Wednesday, April 30, 1997/23538–23549) so that the United States would have the ability to implement its obligations under the Protocol as soon as the Protocol enters into force. The EPA also prepared an "Environmental Assessment of Proposed Interim Rules for Non-Governmental Activity in Antarctica" (EA) to evaluate the environmental and cultural impacts of the interim rule, and issued a Notice of Availability for the EA (**Federal Register**/Vol. 62, No. 87/Tuesday, May 6, 1997/Notices/24652).

During the time the Interim Final Rule is in place and before the October 1998 deadline set by the Act, EPA will promulgate a Final Rule that will provide for assessment of the environmental impacts of nongovernmental activities, including tourism, in Antarctica and for coordination of the review of information regarding environmental impact assessments received from other Parties to the Protocol. In support of this regulatory action, EPA is preparing an EIS to consider the environmental and regulatory issues to be addressed in the Final Rule and the alternatives for addressing these issues within the rule-making process. The EPA issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for this regulatory action that included a listing of issues that, along with any other relevant alternatives or issues raised by the public, will be considered in the Draft EIS (**Federal Register**/Vol. 62, No. 90/Friday, May 9, 1997/Notices/25611–25613).

III. Availability of Documents

Copies of the Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment, the Environmental Assessment, Finding of

No Significant Impact, the Interim Final Rule, and Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS for the Final Rule are available in the **Federal Register** as cited above or may be requested from Mr. Montgomery or Ms. Biggs as listed in the For Further Information section. These documents are also available on the World Wide Web at: <http://es.inel.gov/oeca/ofa/>.

Richard E. Sanderson,

Director, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 97-14249 Filed 5-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-00481; FRL-5720-1]

Evaluating Ecological Risk; Open Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: EPA is holding a 1-day open meeting to discuss EPA's current initiative to incorporate probabilistic approaches into its ecological risk assessments under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). EPA wishes to use this open meeting to encourage broad-based discussion of the use of probabilistic methods to assess the ecological risks of pesticides and to provide a background for subsequent detailed technical discussions of probabilistic assessment methods. A 2-day technical working session of terrestrial and aquatic assessment workgroups will follow the open meeting.

DATES: The open meeting will be held on June 23, 1997, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required as space is limited to 180 people. Participation by a broad range of stakeholders is desired. Registration forms may be obtained by calling Trudy Aust, Golder Associates Inc. at (352) 336-5600 and must be returned no later than June 6, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at: the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. The telephone number for the hotel is: (703) 418-1234.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Dana Spatz, Office of Pesticide Programs (7507C), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail address: Rm. 1011G, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, (703) 305-6063, e-mail: spatz.dana@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In May 1996, EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) presented two ecological risk assessment case studies to the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) for comment on the methodologies used. While generally affirming and recognizing the utility of the current assessment process and methods, the SAP offered a number of suggestions for improving the OPP ecological risk assessment process. Foremost among the suggestions was that OPP move beyond the present single point deterministic process of risk assessment and develop the tools and methodologies necessary to do a probabilistic assessment that addresses the magnitude of the expected impact as well as the uncertainty and variation involved in the provided estimates.

As a result, the Environmental Fate and Effects Division (EFED) within the OPP has begun a series of efforts to identify, develop, and validate probabilistic assessment tools and methodologies which could be used for evaluating terrestrial and aquatic effects of pesticides. EFED has requested the cooperation of the American Crop Protection Association (ACPA) in this technical effort, and together EPA and ACPA have organized aquatic and terrestrial workgroups, each comprised of experts drawn from government agencies, academia, contract laboratories, environmental advocacy groups, and industry.

OPP is setting up an open docket which will include supporting material for this exploration of probabilistic ecological risk assessment methods. A final agenda for the meeting on June 23, and background papers regarding the topics to be discussed will be available for public review after June 13 at the following address: Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. 1128, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, Telephone: (703) 305-5805.

Any person who wishes to file a written statement can do so before or after the meeting. These statements will become part of the permanent file and will be provided to the workgroup members for their information.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection.

Dated: May 20, 1997.

Joseph J. Merenda, Jr.,

Director, Environmental Fate and Effects Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 97-14300 Filed 5-28-97; 1:23 pm]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD

Sunshine Act Notice

TIME AND DATE: 10:00 a.m. (EDT), June 9, 1997.

PLACE: 4th Floor, Conference Room 4506, 1250 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Approval of the minutes of the May 12, 1997, Board member meeting.
2. Thrift Savings Plan activity report by the Executive Director.
3. Review of KPMG Peat Marwick audit reports:

- (a) "Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration Review of ADP Hardware Operations Management of the Thrift Savings Plan at the United States Department of Agriculture, National Finance Center"
- (b) "Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration Review of the Thrift Savings Plan Loan Operations at the United States Department of Agriculture, National Finance Center"
- (c) "Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration Review of the Thrift Savings Plan Forfeiture and Forfeiture Restoration Operations and Interfund Transfer Process at the United States Department of Agriculture, National Finance Center"

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Thomas J. Trabucco, Director, Office of External Affairs, (202) 942-1640.

Dated: May 28, 1997.

Roger W. Mehle,

Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

[FR Doc. 97-14363 Filed 5-28-97; 4:24 pm]

BILLING CODE 6760-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[30 DAY-12-97]

Agency Forms Undergoing Paperwork Reduction Act Review

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes a list of information collection requests under review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). To request a copy of these

requests, call the CDC Reports Clearance Office on (404) 639-7090. Send written comments to CDC, Desk Officer; Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235; Washington, DC 20503. Written comments should be received within 30 days of this notice.

Proposed Project

1. Technical Assistance to Enhance the Statistical and Analytic capacity of State and Local Public Health Professionals For Year 2000 Applications—(0920-0290)—Extension—Responsibility for identifying and providing data for monitoring the Year 2000 objectives is shared by agencies throughout the government, in State and local governments and in the private sector. Each of the 22 health priority areas outlined in the Year 2000 Objectives provides an assessment of the availability of data for establishing baseline measures and potential data sources for tracking progress. A key set of provisions of the Year 2000 Health Objectives Planning Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-582) provided for grants to states for the development of plans to implement the Year 2000 Health Objectives within each state, including the assessment of health within each of the states. The Act further mandated the development of uniform health status indicators for use by federal, state and local health agencies and model methods of collecting and reporting data. In order to enhance state capacity to use data, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS/CDC) has provided training in the use of data for public health purposes through the Applied Statistics Training Institute (ASTI). ASTI presents a series of short focused courses on data collection, analysis and utilization. These courses are offered to professionals in state and local health departments. The attendees gain knowledge of practical applications and techniques for evaluating the Year 2000 health objectives. Also, by sponsoring these courses, CDC can expect certain standards of data analysis on the local level. An upgrading of methodological skills for those persons at the local level primarily responsible for analysis is vitally important in understanding the health status of a population and in planning effective prevention programs. Each year ASTI mails a Bulletin of Courses to state and local public health agencies informing them, of the curriculum of courses available. An application for training form is included in the Bulletin of Courses for use by individuals interested in attending a course. This