

improved the petition, but that there were still information gaps, particularly in the identification of sources, exposure modeling assessment, and atmospheric chemistry. The petitioner submitted additional documents in 1998 and early 1999 to address these remaining information gaps.

After reviewing all of the supplemental information, we have now determined that the essential subject areas have been addressed and that the petition is complete and ready for technical review. The AF&PA's last supplement which occurred February 18, 1999 marked the start of the 18 months decision period. Today's notice initiates our comprehensive technical review of the petition and invites public comment on the substance of the petition as described above.

III. Description of the Petition

The complete petition provided by AF&PA contains the following information:

A. Background data on methanol, including chemical and physical properties data and production and use data.

B. A review of available scientific literature documenting human, animal, in vitro, and other toxicity studies concerning methanol, with copies of the relevant literature citations.

C. A review of available scientific literature concerning environmental effects of methanol, with copies of the relevant literature citations.

D. An assessment of the human health and environmental effects of methanol including AF&PA's proposed calculation of the air inhalation SEL. The petition asserts that the proposed SEL is a quantitative estimate of an inhalation exposure to humans that is likely to be without appreciable risk of adverse impacts over a lifetime.

E. A characterization of the fate of methanol emitted to the atmosphere including atmospheric residence time, solubility, information on atmospheric transformations, and potential degradation or transformation products.

F. A screening assessment to demonstrate that only sources emitting greater than 500 tons per year (tpy) have a theoretical possibility of exceeding the SEL.

G. Estimated emissions of methanol for sources that emit greater than 500 tpy of methanol derived from the toxic release inventory (TRI), as well as other data sources such as State air toxics emissions inventories. The TRI is an emissions inventory database developed under section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986.

H. Tiered air dispersion modeling that provides estimates of the ambient concentrations of methanol adjacent to facilities that emit over 500 tpy of methanol and the potential human exposures to methanol due to these emissions. Tiered modeling involves the use of successive modeling techniques to move from

conservative "worst case" estimates of the ambient concentrations of a substance emitted from a source toward more realistic site specific estimates of the ambient concentrations.

I. Characterization of the potential exposures and risks from methanol to human health and the environment.

The petition describes methanol as a simple alcohol containing one carbon atom. Methanol is reported to occur naturally as an emission resulting from metabolism in vegetation, microorganisms, and insects. It has also been found in volcanic gases. Methanol is produced during the natural biodegradation of organic wastes of all kinds, including sewage and wastewater sludge, by microorganisms normally found in the environment.

In the original petition submittal (dated March 8, 1996), it is stated that based on the 1993 TRI, 2,303 facilities reported emissions of methanol for a total of 86,155 tons of methanol emitted to the air in the United States in 1993. Based on the 1993 TRI data, the paper and allied products industry accounted for about 52 percent of the methanol emissions. The next largest source category was the chemical and allied products industry which accounted for 25 percent of the methanol emissions. Six facilities reported emissions over 1,000 tpy, 195 facilities reported emissions over 100 tpy and 828 facilities reported emissions over 10 tpy. Subsequent petition submittals present emissions estimates based on more recent data sources (e.g., the 1995 TRI) for sources emitting greater than 500 tpy of methanol.

The petition presents the derivation of a SEL of 83 milligrams of methanol per cubic meter of air (i.e., 83 mg/m³). The petitioner asserts that exposures below this SEL can be expected to produce no potential adverse human effects from lifetime inhalation exposures. The petition claims the SEL is based on standard EPA methodology, which incorporates the identification of the most sensitive toxic endpoint and the corresponding no-observable-adverse-effect-level (NOAEL) (in this case an exposure level of 1,300 mg/m³ for pregnant mice), adjustment of the NOAEL from an animal exposure concentration to an equivalent human exposure concentration, and application of appropriate uncertainty factors. To determine the human equivalent concentration of methanol, the petition used the NOAEL derived from the mouse study and converted it to a human-equivalent NOAEL following EPA guidelines by multiplying the animal species NOAEL by the ratio of a breathing rate divided by the body

weight of the animal species to the same parameters for humans. The human-equivalent NOAEL, along with uncertainty factors, was then used to determine the SEL.

The petition asserts that inhalation is the only significant route of human exposure to methanol emissions. Since methanol rapidly biodegrades and volatilizes in water, it is highly unlikely that humans are exposed to significant amounts of methanol through fallout or impaction upon soils or directly upon water bodies. Using the TRI data as input in a tiered air dispersion modeling approach, the petition develops estimates of the maximum annual and 24-hour concentrations anticipated to occur at the boundaries of facilities known to emit methanol in excess of 500 tpy. The maximum predicted 24-hour concentration for any of these facilities was about 7.5 mg/m³. After comparing the estimated exposure levels to the SEL, the AF&PA concludes that concentrations of methanol anticipated to occur due to emissions from these sources cannot reasonably be anticipated to cause either acute or chronic adverse health effects to people living nearby these facilities.

The petition also provides data to support the AF&PA's position that in the concentrations expected to occur in the environment, methanol is nontoxic to plants and animals. It is readily degradable through natural process and does not tend to accumulate in living organism.

Dated: July 9, 1999.

Robert Perciasepe,

Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6379-9]

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council's (NEJAC) International Subcommittee; Notification of Environmental Justice Roundtable on the U.S.-Mexico Border, Open Meeting and Public Comment Period(s) and Concurrent Meeting of NEJAC's Enforcement Subcommittee (All Times are Pacific Daylight Time)

The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) and the Environmental Protection Agency will sponsor a Roundtable on Environmental Justice on the U.S.-Mexico Border, August 19, 20, 21, 1999, in National City, California. A broad range of

stakeholders and constituent groups from all the border states are invited to participate in the Roundtable to help develop a framework and general recommendations to address environmental justice issues on the U.S.-Mexico border. Roundtable activities will include public comment/community participation periods, speaker presentations, and panel-led discussions pertaining to environmental justice issues on the border. At general and break-out group sessions participants will dialogue, analyze, and develop policy recommendations on environmental justice, health, labor, immigration and environment, Indigenous People's issues, and trade and environment on the U.S.-Mexico border. The Roundtable will start with a public comment period 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Thursday, August 19, 1999. On Friday, August 20, general sessions and break-out groups will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with an additional public comment period from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., if necessary. The Roundtable will conclude on Saturday, August 21, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with a general session at which reports from break-out groups and next steps will be discussed. A report and recommendations from the Roundtable proceedings will be prepared by the International Subcommittee and submitted to NEJAC for review and consideration before forwarding them to the Administrator of the U.S. EPA.

Members of the public who wish to make a brief oral presentation should contact Tetra Tech EM Inc. by August 9 to have time reserved on the agenda. Individuals or groups making oral presentations will be limited to a total time of five minutes. We should receive written comments of any length by August 9. Comments received after that date will be provided as logistics allow. Send your written comments to Tetra Tech EM Inc., 1881 Campus Commons, Suite 200, Reston, Virginia 20191.

A limited number of scholarships are available for representatives of impacted border community groups to participate in the Roundtable. For more information or to pre-register, please call the NEJAC Registration Toll-Free Hotline Telephone number at 1-888-335-4299 (English & Spanish). For scholarship information, please call ICMA, Amparo Macias (Spanish) or Angele White (English) toll-free on 1-877-278-0083.

Concurrent Meeting of NEJAC Enforcement Subcommittee: August 20, 21, 1999

The NEJAC Enforcement Subcommittee will hold a meeting

concurrent with the International Roundtable in San Diego. The Subcommittee will meet on both August 20 and 21 to discuss a variety of environmental enforcement issues. For additional information, please contact Shirley Pate at (202) 564-2607 or via e-mail at pate.shirley@epa.gov.

Dated: July 12, 1999.

Alan D. Hecht,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of International Activities.

[FR Doc. 99-18357 Filed 7-16-99; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission

July 8, 1999.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) that does not display a valid control number. Comments are requested concerning (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted on or before September 17, 1999. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all comments to Les Smith, Federal Communications Commissions, 445 12th Street, S.W.,

Room 1-A804, Washington, DC 20554 or via the Internet to lesmith@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or copies of the information collections contact Les Smith at (202) 418-0217 or via the Internet at lesmith@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Control Number: 3060-0584.

Title: Administration of U.S. certified accounting authorities in maritime mobile and maritime mobile-satellite radio services.

Form Number: FCC Form 44 and FCC Form 45.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Individuals and households; businesses and other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 25.

Estimated Time Per Response: Three hours per response for Application for Certification of Accounting Authority form; one hour per response for the Annual Statistical Report of Settlement Operations form; and one hour per response for the Report of Additions/Modifications/Deletions to Inventory.

Frequency of Response: Semi-Annually; Annually; One time.

Total Annual Burden: 150.

Needs and Uses: The Commission will use the information in this information collection to determine eligibility of applicant; to create internal studies and to ensure compliance. The Commission will also use the information to identify the accounting authorities of U.S. licensed vessels and to update the reporting of changes in accounting authority functions to the International Telecommunication Union for inclusion in their List of Ship Stations Report. The Report and Order is modified to reduce a monthly reporting of changes to the inventory of ships for which the accounting authority performs settlements to a semi-annual requirement. A requirement for this information was included in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 58 FR 246, December 27, 1993; however, the burden of the requirement was not adequately addressed at that time.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-18249 Filed 7-16-99; 8:45 am]

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