

(NOAA)/Department of Commerce; the Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Ocean Sciences/National Science Foundation (NSF); the Office of Naval Research (ONR)/Department of Defense; and the Office of Earth Science/National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) are cooperating in an opportunity for investigators to propose activities to address fundamental ecological and oceanographic questions related to the national harmful algal bloom (HAB) problem.

Proposals are encouraged in the following areas: (1) the prevention, control, and mitigation of HABs and their impacts, (2) the transition of current biophysical models for HABs in specific regions into operational HAB forecasts, (3) biological and physical oceanographic regional studies that include the development of linked biophysical models of bloom development and transport, and (4) studies addressing gaps in general knowledge of HAB phenomena. These special emphasis areas are described in greater detail in the complete program announcement (see **ADDRESSES**).

ECOHAB will support projects ranging from laboratory studies by individual Investigators or small teams, up to larger teams of investigators conducting coordinated, well-integrated, multi-disciplinary regional field programs. For individuals and small teams, support may be requested for 1–3 years duration. Projects focused on multi-disciplinary regional studies may request support for up to 5 years duration. However, the size and duration of the latter studies are dependent on appropriations, and potential applicants are encouraged to correspond with the ECOHAB Coordinator (see “Contacts” in this announcement) prior to preparation of proposals.

#### Eligibility

Academic and not-for-profit institutions located in the U.S., and state or local governments, are eligible under all existing authorizations. Some participating agencies are authorized to make awards to profit-making firms and international institutions. NOAA and other permitted Federal partnering agencies may fund investigators from Federal laboratories that successfully compete through the ECOHAB Program announcement, but salaries of full time Federal employees will be in accord with individual agency policies. Federal investigators will be required to submit certifications or documentation which clearly show that they have specific legal authority to receive funds from another Federal agency in excess of

their appropriations. Applications from non-Federal and Federal applicants will be competed against each other.

Proposals selected for funding from non-Federal applicants will be funded through a project grant or cooperative agreement under the terms of this announcement. Proposals from Federal researchers deemed acceptable and selected for funding will be funded through a medium other than a grant or cooperative agreement, such as inter- or intra-agency transfers, where legal authority exists for such funding.

#### How to Apply

The original and eighteen (18) copies of the fully developed application (19 in all) and one (1) additional copy of the abstract, prepared in accordance with the full announcement, must be received by NOAA no later than 4:00 P.M. Eastern Time on the closing date, January 10, 2002.

#### Program Authorities

For COP: 33 U.S.C. 883d and P.L. 105–383; for Office of Protected Resources/NOAA: 16 U.S.C. 1382 and 16 U.S.C. 1421a; EPA: 33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.* and 40 CFR parts 30 and 40; for NSF: 42 U.S.C. 1861 *et seq.*; for ONR: 10 U.S.C. 2358 as amended and 31 U.S.C. 6304; and for NASA: 14 CFR part 1260

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Numbers. 11.478 for the Coastal Ocean Program; 11.472 for NOAA/Office of Protected Resources; 66.500 for the Environmental Protection Agency; 47.050 for the National Science Foundation, and 12.300 for the Office of Naval Research.

Dated: September 19, 2001.

**Henry L. Longest II,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator for Research and Development.*

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**BILLING CODE 6560–50–P**

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–7072–6]

#### Peer Consultation Workshop on Alternative Approaches to the Health Assessment of PAH Mixtures

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice of peer consultation workshop.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing a workshop for scientific peer consultation on alternative approaches to the health risk assessment of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH)

mixtures. The workshop is sponsored by EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment of the Office of Research and Development. Versar, Inc., an EPA contractor, is providing logistical support for the workshop. The individual scientific opinions of the experts participating in the workshop will be taken into consideration by EPA when developing the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) health assessment for PAH mixtures.

**DATES:** The workshop will be held on Wednesday, October 24, 2001, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Thursday, October 25, 2001, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The workshop will be held at the Key Bridge Marriott, 1401 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA. Versar, Inc., an EPA contractor, is providing logistical support for the workshop. To attend the workshop as an observer, visit [www.versar.com/pahrisk/](http://www.versar.com/pahrisk/) and register by October 19, 2001. Space is limited, and reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be a limited time for comments from the public during the workshop. Please let Versar know if you wish to make a brief statement not to exceed five minutes.

EPA has prepared a discussion document, “Workshop on Approaches to Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH) Health Assessment: Discussion Document,” to provide experts participating in the workshop background information on current EPA practices for assessing PAH health risk and an overview of alternative approaches to health assessment for PAH mixtures. A copy of this document is available from Versar.

Comments related to PAH health assessment approaches may be mailed to Susan Rieth, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (8601D), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460 or delivered to Susan Rieth, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 808 17th St. NW., Washington, DC 20006. Electronic comments may be emailed to [rieth.susan@epa.gov](mailto:rieth.susan@epa.gov).

Please note that all comments received in response to this notice will be public information. For that reason, commentors should not submit personal information (such as medical data or home address), Confidential Business Information, or information protected by copyright. Due to limited resources, acknowledgments will not be sent.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information concerning the peer consultation workshop please contact Traci Bludis, Versar, Inc.; telephone: 1–800–2–VERSAR ext 449; email: [bluditra@versar.com](mailto:bluditra@versar.com). For technical inquiries, please contact Susan Rieth,

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (8601D), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone 202-564-1532; facsimile 202-565-0075; email rieth.susan@epa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** At the request of several EPA program offices, the EPA IRIS Program is undertaking a health assessment for PAHs. The IRIS Program develops EPA consensus scientific positions on potential human health effects that may result from chronic exposure to chemical substances found in the environment; assessments for approximately 540 chemical substances can be found in the IRIS database (66 FR 11165).

Currently, the IRIS database contains entries developed in the early 1990s for 15 non-methylated PAHs with three or more rings. These entries provide assessments of the carcinogenic and noncarcinogenic effects of individual PAHs; however, the IRIS database does not provide assessments for other PAHs with carcinogenic potential (e.g., "supercarcinogens," methylated PAHs, etc.), and does not consider issues associated with the environmental occurrence of PAHs as complex mixtures.

The initiation of the IRIS PAH assessment follows closely on the release of the EPA Risk Assessment Forum's Supplementary Guidance for Conducting Health Risk Assessment of Chemical Mixtures (EPA/630/R-00/002), which sets forth EPA's risk assessment paradigm for mixtures. The framework for chemical mixture assessment provided in the supplemental guidance will be applied in the current IRIS effort.

Because of the complexity of the scientific literature related to PAH mixtures, the EPA is sponsoring a two-day peer consultation workshop with experts in PAH toxicology and chemistry and the assessment of chemical mixtures to examine alternative approaches to the health assessment of PAH mixtures. Because information needed to support development of a mixtures approach for assessing the noncancer effects of PAHs is limited or lacking, it is expected that the workshop will largely focus on the extensive carcinogenicity literature for PAHs.

Objectives of the workshop will be to generate individual scientific opinions on (1) the extent to which each of the alternative approaches to PAH health assessment is supported by the current scientific literature and (2) how well each approach addresses the range of exposure situations and monitoring data encompassed by EPA program offices.

The individual expert opinions and recommendations generated in this workshop will be taken into consideration by EPA in developing an appropriate and scientifically defensible health assessment procedure(s) for inclusion in the IRIS assessment for PAHs.

Dated: September 26, 2001.

**Art Payne,**

*Acting Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.*

[FR Doc. 01-24718 Filed 10-2-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**[OPP-42080; FRL-6798-8]**

### **Nebraska State Plan for Certification of Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides; Notice of Availability**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The State of Nebraska has submitted to EPA several statutory, regulatory, and programmatic amendments to its State Plan for Certification and Training of Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides. The proposed amendments include the establishment of new commercial and noncommercial categories and subcategories along with their respective standards of competency, and the payment of appropriate fees for the licensing of commercial, noncommercial and private applicators. Notice is hereby given of the intention of the Regional Administrator, Region VII, to approve the revised Plan for the Certification of Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides. EPA is soliciting comments on the proposed amendments.

**DATES:** Comments, identified by docket control number OPP-42080, must be received on or before November 2, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted by mail, electronically, or in person. Please follow the detailed instructions for each method as provided in Unit I. of the

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.** To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that you identify docket control number OPP-42080 in the subject line on the first page of your response.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Tice, Water, Wetlands and Pesticide Division, WWPDP/PEP, 901 N. 5th Street, Kansas City, KS 66101; telephone number: (402) 437-5080; e-mail address: Tice.john@epa.gov.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **I. General Information**

#### *A. Does this Action Apply to Me?*

This action is directed to the public in general. This action may, however, be of interest to those involved in agriculture and anyone involved with the distribution and application of pesticides for agricultural purposes. Others involved with pesticides in a non-agricultural setting may also be affected. In addition, it may be of interest to others, such as, those persons who are or may be required to conduct testing of chemical substances under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), or the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Since other entities may also be interested, the Agency has not attempted to describe all the specific entities that may be affected by this action. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

#### *B. How Can I Get Copies of the Amended State Plan, Other Related Documents, and Additional Information?*

To obtain copies of the amended Nebraska Certification Plan, other related documents, or additional information contact:

1. John Tice at the address listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

2. Tim Creger, P.O. Box 94756, Lincoln, NE 68509-4756; telephone number: (402) 471-2394; e-mail address: timlc@agr.state.ne.us.

3. Jeanne Heying, Office of Pesticide Programs, Field and External Affairs Division (7506C), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW.; telephone number: (703) 308-3240; e-mail address: Heying.Jeanne@epa.gov.

4. The Nebraska Certification plan and proposed changes may be viewed on the internet at the following URL: <http://www.agr.state.ne.us/division/bpi/pes/p07.pdf>

#### *C. How and to Whom Do I Submit Comments?*

You may submit comments through the mail, in person, or electronically to John Tice at the address listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, it is imperative that you identify docket control number OPP-42080 in the subject line on the first page of your response. Electronic comments can be