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Issued in Washington, DC, on April 2, 2004.

Beverly A. Cook,

Assistant Secretary, Environment, Safety and Health.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7642-2]

Office of Research and Development; Ambient Air Monitoring Reference and Equivalent Methods: Designation of a New Equivalent Method for PM₁₀

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of the designation of a new equivalent method for monitoring ambient air quality.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated, in accordance with 40 CFR part 53, a new equivalent method for measuring concentrations of particulate matter as PM₁₀ in the ambient air.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Hunike, Human Exposure and Atmospheric Sciences Division (MD-D205-03), National Exposure Research Laboratory, U.S. EPA, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711. Phone: (919) 541-3737, e-mail: Hunike.Elizabeth@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with regulations at 40 CFR

part 53, the EPA evaluates various methods for monitoring the concentrations of those ambient air pollutants for which EPA has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQSs) as set forth in 40 CFR part 50. Monitoring methods that are determined to meet specific requirements for adequacy are designated by the EPA as either reference methods or equivalent methods (as applicable), thereby permitting their use under 40 CFR part 58 by States and other agencies for determining attainment of the NAAQSs.

The EPA hereby announces the designation of one new equivalent method for measuring concentrations of particulate matter as PM₁₀ in ambient air. This designation is made under the provisions of 40 CFR part 53, as amended on July 18, 1997 (62 FR 38764).

The new equivalent method for PM₁₀ is an automated method (analyzer) that utilizes a measurement principle based on sample collection by filtration and analysis by beta-ray attenuation. The newly designated equivalent method is identified as follows:

EQPM-0404-151, "Environnement S.A. Model MP101M PM₁₀ Beta Gauge Monitor," configured with the louvered PM₁₀ inlet specified in 40 CFR 50 Appendix L or its flat-topped predecessor version and one of the three optional temperature-regulated sampling tubes (RST), and operated with a full scale measurement range of 0-0.500 mg/m³ (0-500 ug/μm³), with the sample flow rate set to 1.00 m³/h and flow regulation set to yes, the "norms selection" set to m³ (actual volume), the "cycle" set to 24 hours, the "period" set to none, and the "counting time" set to 200 seconds.

An application for an equivalent method determination for this method was received by the EPA on October 3, 2003. The method is available commercially from the applicant, Environnement S.A., 111, Bd Robespierre, 78304 Poissy, Cedex, France (<http://www.environnement-sa.com>).

Test analyzers representative of this method have been tested by the applicant in accordance with the applicable test procedures specified in 40 CFR part 53 (as amended on July 18, 1997). After reviewing the results of those tests and other information submitted by the applicant, EPA has determined, in accordance with part 53, that this method should be designated as an equivalent method. The information submitted by the applicant will be kept on file, either at EPA's National Exposure Research Laboratory, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711 or in an approved archive storage

facility, and will be available for inspection (with advance notice) to the extent consistent with 40 CFR part 2 (EPA's regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act).

As a designated reference or equivalent method, this method is acceptable for use by states and other air monitoring agencies under the requirements of 40 CFR part 58, Ambient Air Quality Surveillance. For such purposes, the method must be used in strict accordance with the operation or instruction manual associated with the method and subject to any specifications and limitations (e.g., configuration or operational settings) specified in the applicable designation method description (see the identification of the method above).

Users of the method should also note that its equivalent method designation applies only to 24-hour average PM₁₀ concentration measurements. The Model MP101M Monitor may also provide average PM₁₀ concentration measurements over other, shorter averaging periods, including one-hour averages. However, such shorter average concentration measurements may be less precise than the 24-hour measurements and are not required for use in determining attainment under the air quality surveillance requirements of part 58 (although they may be useful for other purposes). Use of the method should also be in general accordance with the guidance and recommendations of applicable sections of the "Quality Assurance Handbook for Air Pollution Measurement Systems, Volume I," EPA/600/R-94/038a and "Quality Assurance Handbook for Air Pollution Measurement Systems, Volume II, Part 1," EPA-454/R-98-004. Vendor modifications of a designated reference or equivalent method used for purposes of part 58 are permitted only with prior approval of the EPA, as provided in part 53. Provisions concerning modification of such methods by users are specified under section 2.8 (Modifications of Methods by Users) of appendix C to 40 CFR part 58.

In general, a method designation applies to any sampler or analyzer which is identical to the sampler or analyzer described in the application for designation. In some cases, similar samplers or analyzers manufactured prior to the designation may be upgraded or converted (e.g., by minor modification or by substitution of the approved operation or instruction manual) so as to be identical to the designated method and thus achieve designated status. The manufacturer should be consulted to determine the

feasibility of such upgrading or conversion.

Part 53 requires that sellers of designated reference or equivalent method analyzers or samplers comply with certain conditions. These conditions are specified in 40 CFR 53.9 and are summarized below:

(a) A copy of the approved operation or instruction manual must accompany the sampler or analyzer when it is delivered to the ultimate purchaser.

(b) The sampler or analyzer must not generate any unreasonable hazard to operators or to the environment.

(c) The sampler or analyzer must function within the limits of the applicable performance specifications given in 40 CFR parts 50 and 53 for at least one year after delivery when maintained and operated in accordance with the operation or instruction manual.

(d) Any sampler or analyzer offered for sale as part of a reference or equivalent method must bear a label or sticker indicating that it has been designated as part of a reference or equivalent method in accordance with part 53 and showing its designated method identification number.

(e) If such an analyzer has two or more selectable ranges, the label or sticker must be placed in close proximity to the range selector and indicate which range or ranges have been included in the reference or equivalent method designation.

(f) An applicant who offers samplers or analyzers for sale as part of a reference or equivalent method is required to maintain a list of ultimate purchasers of such samplers or analyzers and to notify them within 30 days if a reference or equivalent method designation applicable to the method has been canceled or if adjustment of the sampler or analyzer is necessary under 40 CFR 53.11(b) to avoid a cancellation.

(g) An applicant who modifies a sampler or analyzer previously designated as part of a reference or equivalent method is not permitted to sell the sampler or analyzer (as modified) as part of a reference or equivalent method (although it may be sold without such representation), nor to attach a designation label or sticker to the sampler or analyzer (as modified) under the provisions described above, until the applicant has received notice under 40 CFR part 53.14(c) that the original designation or a new designation applies to the method as modified, or until the applicant has applied for and received notice under 40 CFR 53.8(b) of a new reference or

equivalent method determination for the sampler or analyzer as modified.

Aside from occasional breakdowns or malfunctions, consistent or repeated noncompliance with any of these conditions should be reported to: Director, Human Exposure and Atmospheric Sciences Division (MD-E205-01), National Exposure Research Laboratory, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711.

Designation of this new equivalent method is intended to assist the States in establishing and operating their air quality surveillance systems under 40 CFR part 58. Questions concerning the commercial availability or technical aspects of the method should be directed to the applicant.

Jewel F. Morris,

Acting Director, National Exposure Research Laboratory.

[FR Doc. 04-7978 Filed 4-7-04; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7645-2]

Second Meeting of the World Trade Center Expert Technical Review Panel to Continue Evaluation on Issues Relating to Impacts of the Collapse of the World Trade Center Towers; Correction

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of meeting; correction.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency published a document in the **Federal Register** of March 26, 2004, concerning notice of the second meeting of the World Trade Center Expert Technical Review Panel to provide for greater input on ongoing efforts to monitor the situation for New York residents and workers impacted by the collapse of the World Trade Center. The focus of the second meeting is to discuss a draft resampling proposal to evaluate the incidence of recontamination in apartments cleaned in the EPA cleanup effort around the World Trade Center site. The panel will also begin discussing the appropriateness of the use of asbestos as a surrogate measure for other contaminants of concern. The meeting location has changed because the original venue is out of commission due to water damage.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For meeting information, registration and logistics, please see the Web site <http://www.epa.gov/wtc/panel> or contact ERG

at (800) 803-2833 or (781) 674-7374. The meeting agenda and logistical information will be posted on the web site and will also be available in hard copy. For further information regarding the technical panel, contact Ms. Lisa Matthews, EPA Office of the Science Advisor, telephone (202) 564-4499.

Correction

In the **Federal Register** of March 26, 2004, in FR Doc. 04-6826, on page 15832, in the first column, correct the "Address" caption to read:

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center at Borough of Manhattan Community College, Theatre Two, 199 Chambers Street (between West Side Highway/West Street and Greenwich Street), New York, NY 10007.

Dated: April 6, 2004.

Paul Gilman,

EPA Science Advisor and Assistant Administrator for Research and Development.

[FR Doc. 04-8077 Filed 4-7-04; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7644-6]

Notice of Availability of Proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Development and Production Operations off Southern California

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Proposed NPDES General Permit (Reissuance).

SUMMARY: EPA Region 9 is reopening the public comment period for its general NPDES permit (permit No. CAG280000) for discharges from offshore oil and gas exploration, development and production facilities located in Federal waters off the coast of Southern California. The original public comment period for the permit ran from July 20, 2000 to September 5, 2000 and included a public hearing on August 23, 2000. EPA is now requesting public comment concerning proposed modifications to the July 2000 proposed permit which are primarily the result of a review of the permit by the California Coastal Commission (CCC). The proposed modifications are discussed in more detail below. EPA is not reopening the entire permit for public comment at this time; public comment is only being