

ACTION: Notice of permits.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is approving 5-year Phase I Acid Rain permits or permit modifications including sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and/or nitrogen oxides (NO_x) compliance plans in accordance with the Acid Rain Program regulations (40 CFR parts 72 and 76), for the following 21 utility plants: E C Gaston, Gadsden, Gorgas, and J.H. Miller in Alabama; Big Bend, Crist, Jack Watson, Lansing Smith, Scholz, and Victor J. Daniel in Florida; Arkwright, Harlee Branch, McIntosh, Mitchell, Port Wentworth, and Scherer in Georgia; Dunkirk and Roseton in New York; and Harrison, Rivesville, and Willow Island in West Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact the following persons for more information about a permit listed in this notice: for plants in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, call Scott Davis, (404) 347-5014; for plants in New York, call Gerry DeGaetano, (212) 637-4020; and for plants in West Virginia, call Linda Miller, (215) 597-7547.

Dated: January 23, 1996.

Brian J. McLean,

Director, Acid Rain Division, Office of Atmospheric Programs, Office of Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 96-1547 Filed 1-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

[FRL-5409-3]**Clean Air Act; Acid Rain Provisions**

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of the 1996 EPA SO₂ Allowance Auctions.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Title IV of the Clean Air Act and 40 CFR Part 73, the EPA is responsible for implementing a program to reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), a precursor of acid rain. The centerpiece of the SO₂ control program is the allocation of transferable allowances, or authorizations to emit SO₂, which are distributed in limited quantities for existing utility units and which eventually must be held by virtually all utility units to cover their SO₂ emissions. These allowances may be transferred among polluting sources and others, so that market forces may govern their ultimate use and distribution, resulting in the most cost-effective sharing of the emissions control burden. In addition, EPA is directed under Section 416 of the Act to conduct annual sales and auctions of a small portion of allowances (2.8%)

withheld from the total allowances allocated to utilities each year. Sales and auctions are expected to stimulate and support such a market in allowances and to provide a public source of allowances, particularly to new units for which no allowances are allocated. Today, the Acid Rain Division is giving notice of the fourth annual SO₂ allowance auctions. The regulations governing the auctions and sales were promulgated on December 17, 1991 (40 CFR Part 73, Subpart E).

EPA has delegated the administration of the EPA allowance auctions to the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT). The auctions will be conducted under the regulations cited above. Anyone can participate in the EPA auctions and bidders are not restricted as to the quantity or price of their bid. Allowances sold at the auctions will be sold to the highest bidder until no allowances remain. The 1996 auctions will consist of one "spot" auction and two "advance" auctions. Allowances sold in the spot auction are useable for compliance beginning in 1996. Allowances sold in the 6-year advance auction are useable for compliance beginning in 2002; allowances sold in the 7-year advance auction are useable for compliance beginning in 2003. 25,000 allowances—the unsold allowances from the 1995 direct sale—will be sold in the 6-year advance auction, 150,000 allowances will be sold in the spot auction and 100,000 allowances will be sold in the 7-year advance auction. Bid Forms for the 1996 auctions must be received by the CBOT by the close of business on March 19, 1996. The auctions themselves will be conducted on March 25, 1996, with the results announced the next day.

All bids in previous auctions were required to be in whole dollars. Beginning with the March 1996 auctions, bids will be accepted in increments of \$0.01.

CBOT will also sell in the 1996 auctions any spot, 6-year advance, or 7-year advance allowances that are offered by others holding allowances in EPA's Allowance Tracking System. However, offered allowances will be sold after the allowances that were withheld from the utilities, so offered allowances will consequently be sold at a lower price than the withheld allowances. Owners of offered allowances may set a minimum price for their allowances. However, under 40 CFR § 73.70, such offered allowances must have a minimum price in whole dollars. To offer allowances in the EPA auctions, owners of allowances must submit a SO₂ Allowance Offer Form to EPA by the close of business on March 1, 1996.

The auction and sale regulations require that offer forms be received by EPA no later than 15 business days prior to the date of the auctions.

ADDRESSES:

U.S. EPA Acid Rain Division (6204J),
Attn: Auctions and Sales, 401 M St.,
S.W., Washington, DC 20460.

Chicago Board of Trade, Attn: EPA
Auctions, 141 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite
2240, Chicago, IL 60604.

Forms needed to participate in the EPA auctions are available from the Acid Rain Division. To obtain forms, call the Acid Rain Hotline at (202) 233-9620.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Information on bidding in the 1996 EPA auctions can be found in the brochure "How to Bid in the EPA SO₂ Allowance Auctions, Fourth Annual Auctions—March 25, 1996;" general information on the EPA auctions can be found in the "Acid Rain Program Allowance Auctions and Direct Sales" fact sheet. These publications can be obtained by calling the Acid Rain Hotline, by writing to EPA at the address listed above, or by accessing the Acid Rain Program home page on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/docs/acidrain/ardhome.html> where additional information on the Acid Rain Program is also available.

Dated: January 19, 1996.

Brian J. McLean,

Director, Acid Rain Division.

[FR Doc. 96-1548 Filed 1-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

[FRL-5408-4]**Notice of Rechartering of the Local Government Advisory Committee**

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) has been rechartered through December 31, 1997, as a necessary committee which is in the public interest, and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The purpose of the LGAC is to provide authoritative analysis and advice to the EPA Administrator regarding how to achieve more effective and efficient implementation of Federal environmental programs by local governments. The Committee membership is balanced with representation from Local and State government officials, Congressional staff, environmental interest groups, and labor unions.

Dated: January 22, 1996.

Shelley H. Metzenbaum,

Associate Administrator, Office of Regional Operations and State/Local Relations.

[FR Doc. 96-1551 Filed 1-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

[FRL-5406-2]

Public Water Supply Supervision Program, Program Revision for the States of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the States of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas are revising their approved State Public Water Supply Supervision Primacy Program. These States have adopted drinking water regulations for Lead and Copper, and National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Implementation promulgated by EPA on June 7, 1991 (56 FR 26460). EPA has determined that these State program revisions are no less stringent than the corresponding Federal regulations. Therefore, EPA has tentatively decided to approve these State program revisions.

All interested parties are invited to request a public hearing. A request for a public hearing must be submitted by February 28, 1996 to the Regional Administrator at the address shown below. Frivolous or insubstantial requests for a hearing may be denied by the Regional Administrator. However, if a substantial request for a public hearing is made by February 28, 1996, a public hearing will be held. If no timely and appropriate request for a hearing is received and the Regional Administrator does not elect to hold a hearing on his own motion, this determination shall become effective on February 28, 1996.

A request for a public hearing shall include the following: (1) The name, address, and telephone number of the individual, organization, or other entity requesting a hearing. (2) A brief statement of the requesting person's interest in the Regional Administrator's determination and of information that the requesting person intends to submit at such hearing. (3) The signature of the individual making the request; or, if the request is made on behalf of an organization or other entity, the signature of a responsible official of the organization or other entity.

ADDRESSES: All documents relating to this determination are available for inspection between the hours of 9:00

a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the following offices:

Arkansas Department of Health, Engineering Division, 4815 West Markham Street, Little Rock, AR 72205

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health—Engineering, 325 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70112

New Mexico Environment Department, Drinking Water Bureau, 525 Camino de los Marquez, Suite 4, Santa Fe, NM 87502

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, 1000 N.E. 10th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73117

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Water Utilities Division, 12015 Park 35 Circle, Bldg F, Suite 3202, Austin, TX 78753

Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Oscar Cabra Jr., P.E., Chief, EPA, Region 6, Source Water Protection Branch, at the Dallas address given above; telephone (214) 665-7150.

(Sec. 1413 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended, (1986) and 40 CFR 142.10 of the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations)

Dated: December 14, 1995.

A. Stanley Meiburg,
Acting Regional Administrator.

[FR Doc. 96-1552 Filed 1-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

[OPPTS-140241; FRL-4995-6]

Access to Confidential Business Information by Contractors; Extension of Contracts and Access to Confidential Information

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Due to the lack of authorized funding (i.e. a Fiscal Year 1996 Appropriations Bill or Continuing Resolution) and the resultant furlough of EPA employees, EPA is extending the contracts and access to confidential business information of four state agencies serving as contractors to EPA, the State of New York Department of Environmental Conservation (Contract Number 68-W5-0040), Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Contract Number 68-W5-0039), Georgia Department of Natural Resources (Contract Number 68-W5-0038), and Wisconsin Department of Natural

Resources (Contract Number 68-W5-0037).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan B. Hazen, Director, Environmental Assistance Division (7408), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. E-545, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460, (202) 554-1404, TDD: (202) 554-0551, e-mail: TSCA-Hotline@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the fall of 1995, the State of New York Department of Environmental Conservation (Contract Number 68-W5-0040), Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Contract Number 68-W5-0039), Georgia Department of Natural Resources (Contract Number 68-W5-0038), and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Contract Number 68-W5-0037), each were retained as EPA contractors to review information directed to EPA under the authority of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), including confidential business information (CBI). The purpose of the contracts is to have the states determine the value of TSCA derived information to their respective toxics programs. By the terms of the contracts, access to TSCA CBI could be as long as 120 days after the date of contract commencement.

As a result of the furlough of EPA personnel and the closure of the Federal government for significant portions of the contract period, the state contractors were not able to access data or secure necessary Agency personnel assistance so as to adequately perform the contracts.

For this reason, the Agency has determined that access to TSCA CBI should be extended another 60 days, to insure that the state contractors have sufficient time to address the issue of the utility of TSCA data to state programs. Additional information may be secured from Scott Sherlock, the EPA staffer assigned to this project, at telephone number (202) 260-1536; e-mail: sherlock.scott@epamail.epa.gov.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Access to confidential business information.

Dated: January 23, 1996.

Linda A. Travers,

Director, Information Management Division, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics.

[FR Doc. 96-1539 Filed 1-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F