

offshore Port Royal, South Carolina. An EIS is needed to provide the information necessary to designate an ODMDS. This Notice of Intent is issued Pursuant to Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, and 40 CFR Part 228 (Criteria for the Management of Disposal Sites for Ocean Dumping).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO BE PLACED ON THE PROJECT MAILING LIST

CONTACT: Mr. Gary Collins, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, phone 706-355-8725 or Ms. Robin Collier-Socha, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District, Planning Division, P.O. Box 919, Charleston, South Carolina, phone 803-727-4696.

SUMMARY: The entrance channel, inner harbor area and public/private berths of Port Royal Harbor must receive periodic maintenance dredging to ensure safe navigation. The dredged material has been disposed of at an interim ODMDS for Port Royal in the past. Designation of a Port Royal ODMDS is being evaluated to determine the most feasible and environmentally acceptable ocean disposal site for anticipated future dredging.

NEED FOR ACTION: The Corps of Engineers, Charleston District, has requested that EPA designate an ODMDS offshore Port Royal, South Carolina for the disposal of dredged material from the Port Royal area, when ocean disposal is the preferred disposal alternative. An EIS is required to provide the necessary information to evaluate alternatives and designate the preferred ODMDS.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. No action. The no action alternative is defined as not designating an ocean disposal site.

2. Alternative disposal sites in the nearshore, and shelf break regions.

SCOPING: A scoping meeting will be held during the summer of 1997. Further scoping will be accomplished by correspondence with affected Federal, State and local agencies, and with anticipated interested parties.

ESTIMATED DATE OF RELEASE: The Draft EIS will be made available in 1998-1999 time frame.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: John H. Hankinson, Jr., Regional Administrator, Region 4.

Dated: June 24, 1997.

Richard E. Sanderson,

Director, Office of Federal Activities.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5849-5]

Regulatory Reinvention (XL) Pilot Projects

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability of OSI Project XL Draft Final Project Agreement and Related Documents.

SUMMARY: EPA is today requesting comment on a proposed Project XL Final Project Agreement (FPA) for OSI Specialties, Inc. (a subsidiary of Witco Corporation) in Sistersville, West Virginia. The FPA is a voluntary agreement developed collaboratively by OSI, stakeholders, and state and federal regulators. Project XL, announced in the **Federal Register** on May 23, 1995 (60 FR 27282) (FRL-5197-9), gives regulated sources the flexibility to develop alternative strategies that will replace or modify specific regulatory requirements on the condition that they produce greater environmental benefits. EPA has set a goal of implementing a total of fifty projects undertaken in full partnership with the states.

Under the draft FPA, OSI will install an incinerator and route the process vents from its polyether methyl copper production unit to that incinerator for control of organic air emissions. OSI estimates this will reduce the facility's organic air emissions by about 309,000 pounds per year for substantially lower cost than compliance with regulations to be deferred under the Project. In addition, OSI will recover and reuse an estimated 500,000 pounds per year of methanol that would otherwise be disposed of through the facility's on-site wastewater treatment system and would divert about 50,000 pounds per year of organic air emissions from the wastewater treatment unit to the incinerator. This will result in a reduction in sludge generation from OSI's wastewater of 815,000 pounds per year. Lastly, OSI will conduct a waste minimization/pollution prevention study which is expected to result in additional reductions in waste generation at the facility. As an incentive for OSI to take these environmentally beneficial actions, EPA would agree to propose for public comment regulations deferring the application, to the facility's two hazardous waste surface impoundments, of Subpart CC of 40 CFR Parts 264 and 265 which was promulgated under the authority of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA Subpart CC). Also, the West

Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) would enter into a consent order with OSI to defer application of similar state regulations in the interim before the State of West Virginia adopts the EPA deferral. In addition, EPA and the State of West Virginia intend to propose, on a case-by-case basis, a limited scope deferral of proposed Clean Air Act Subpart YYY volatile organic compound emission standards for OSI's wastewater collection and treatment system (40 CFR Part 60, Subpart YYY) (CAA Subpart YYY), if applicable. The CAA Subpart YYY relief involves a deferral of Subpart YYY if OSI begins recovery of CAA Subpart YYY substances as a result of its waste minimization efforts and if the final CAA Subpart YYY regulations apply to such activities. This deferral would be granted only if there is no resulting emissions increase from the facility's wastewater system or if organic air emissions increases from all YYY deferrals do not exceed 15,000 pounds per year (about 5 percent of the Project's expected air emission reductions). These deferrals will last until the required compliance date of the national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants from miscellaneous organic processes (the "MON"). It is expected that the MON will require installation of process vent controls similar to the proposed control for the polyether methyl copper unit process vent emissions to be implemented under the Project. As a result, the Project will be reevaluated at that time to determine whether additional environmental benefits provided by the Project warrant the continuation of the regulatory flexibility granted by the Project. If continuation is warranted, then the FPA and other appropriate documents (e.g., permits, regulations, orders, etc.) will be amended as necessary. If EPA or WVDEP does not determine that continuation of the Project is warranted, the Project will end on the required compliance date of the MON.

DATES: The period for submission of comments ends on July 28, 1997.

ADDRESSES: All comments on the draft Final Project Agreement should be sent to: Cheryl Atkinson, U.S. EPA, Region III, 841 Chestnut Street (3HW70), Philadelphia, PA 19107, or L. Nancy Birnbaum, U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Room 3134CY Mall (2129), Washington, DC 20460. Comments may also be faxed to Ms. Atkinson at (215) 566-3114 or Ms. Birnbaum at (202) 401-6637. Comments will also be received via electronic mail sent to: atkinson.cheryl@epamail.epa.gov or birnbaum.nancy@epamail.epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To obtain a copy of the proposed Final Project Agreement, Fact Sheet, or Question and Answer Document, contact: Cheryl Atkinson, U.S. EPA, Region III, 841 Chestnut Street (3HW70), Philadelphia, PA 19107, or L. Nancy Birnbaum, U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Room 3134CY Mall (2129), Washington, DC 20460. The documents are also available via the Internet at the following location: "<http://www.epa.gov/ProjectXL>". In addition, public files on the Project are located at both the local Sistersville library and EPA Region III in Philadelphia. Questions to EPA regarding the documents can be directed to Cheryl Atkinson at (215) 566-3392 or L. Nancy Birnbaum at (202) 260-2601. To be included on the OSi Project XL mailing list to receive information about future public meetings, XL progress reports and other mailings from OSi on the XL Project, contact: Okey Tucker, OSi Specialties, Inc., Witco Corporation OrganoSilicones Group, 1500 South State Route 2, Friendly, WV 26146. Mr. Tucker can also be reached by telephone at (304) 652-8131. For information on all other aspects of the XL Program contact Christopher Knopes at the following address: Emerging Sectors and Strategies Division; United States Environmental Protection Agency; 3202 Mall; 401 M Street, SW; Mail Code 2129; Washington, DC 20460. The telephone number for the Division is (202) 260-5754. The facsimile number is (202) 401-6637. Additional information on Project XL, including documents referenced in this notice, other EPA policy documents related to Project XL, regional XL contacts, application information, and descriptions of existing XL projects and proposals, is available via the Internet at "<http://www.epa.gov/ProjectXL>" and via an automated fax-on-demand menu at (202) 260-8590.

Dated: June 23, 1997.

Christopher Knopes,
Acting Director, Emerging Sectors and Strategies Division.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5848-8]

Peer Review of Agency Research Plans

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces two workshops sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Research and Development (ORD) to obtain scientific peer-review for two research plans, one entitled "Research Plan for Endocrine Disruptors" and the other entitled "Global Change Research Strategy."

DATES: The dates for the workshops are listed below. Members of the public may attend as observers. Due to limited space, seating at the meetings will be on a first-come first-serve basis.

Peer Review of Endocrine Disruptors Research Plan. The workshop will begin at 8 a.m. and end no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8, 1997, and begin at 9 a.m. and end no earlier than 1 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 1997.

Peer Review of Global Change Research Strategy. The workshop will begin at 8 a.m. and end no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 23, 1997, and begin at 8:30 a.m. and end no earlier than 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 24, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Both peer reviews will be held at the Carlton Hotel, 923 16th Street, Washington, DC Eastern Research Group, Inc., an EPA contractor, is providing logistical support for the workshop. To attend the workshop as an observer, contact Eastern Research Group, Inc., Tel: (617) 674-7374. Space is limited so please register early.

AVAILABILITY OF REVIEW MATERIALS: An electronic version of each research strategy is accessible on EPA's Office of Research and Development home page on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/ORD/resplans>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Endocrine Disruptors Research Plan Peer Review—Dr. Robert Kavlock, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (MD-71), Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, telephone (919) 541-2771. Global Change Research Strategy Peer Review—Mr. Thomas Barnwell, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (MD-75), Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, telephone (919) 541-2106.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Endocrine Disruptors Research Plan was developed to provide a roadmap for the EPA's Office of Research and Development research program on endocrine disruptors. It is intended to provide guidance to both the intramural research program and the extramural grants program in terms of research priorities and the pacing of the research programs over the next five years. The plan recognizes that considerable research in this area is funded by several federal agencies and seeks to

emphasize those areas where EPA can make a substantive and meaningful contribution. The plan has been circulated through the CENR (Committee on the Environment and National Resources) Working Group on Endocrine Disruptors that is coordinating efforts across the federal government.

Briefly, the plan addresses research needs in the areas of biological effects (both for human health and wildlife) and exposure assessment. Importantly, it also contains a "linkage" section that strives to integrate effects and exposure research to provide a more complete analysis of the risks than has generally been done in the past for endocrine disruptors. Specific projects will be chosen for funding following peer review of proposals submitted under targeted Requests for Applications (RFAs) during each budget year. These RFAs will be based on the overall strategy, and fine tuned each year to ensure the appropriate balance and mix of research, given progress achieved in prior years.

The Global Change Research Strategy is focused on the resolution of issues resulting from the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report suggesting the potential for serious ecological and health effects due to global change, and on addressing priorities established in the overall federal research program. The strategic foci of ORD's global change research program are: identification and evaluation of (1) regional ecological vulnerabilities (including associated human health impacts) to temperature and hydrologic changes associated with predicted changes in climate; and (2) adaptation strategies and cost-effective technologies to prevent or control greenhouse gas emissions.

ORD's first major focus is to provide a stronger scientific basis for understanding, predicting and assessing the causes and impacts of changes in terrestrial, aquatic and coastal ecosystems resulting from human-induced and natural stressors. ORD's second major focus is to implement a variety of emission reduction and adaptation measures to implement a variety of emission reduction. Due to uncertainties about the significance of impacts and the wide variety of emission sources, an array of options will be needed. The strategy document describes the research areas and planned direction for the ORD program over the next 3 to 5 years.