substance, for essential uses should be permitted only if: (i) All economically feasible steps have been taken to minimize the essential use and any associated emission of the controlled substance; and (ii) the controlled substance is not available in sufficient quantity and quality from the existing stocks of banked or recycled controlled substances * * *.''

Section 614 (b) of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (the Act) provides: ''In the case of conflict between any provision of this title [Title VI of the Act] and any provision of the Protocol, the more stringent provision shall govern.'' Thus, to the extent that an accelerated phaseout schedule has been adopted under the Protocol, EPA can legally provide exemptions for uses authorized by the Protocol but not otherwise specified in the Act as long as any additional production does not exceed the production reduction schedule contained in section 604(a).

The first step in the process to qualify a use as essential under the Protocol is for the user to ascertain whether the use of the controlled substance meets the Decision IV/25 criteria. The user should then notify EPA of the candidate use and provide information for U.S. government agencies and the Protocol Parties to evaluate that use according to the criteria under Decision IV/25. The UNEP Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) has issued a handbook entitled ''Handbook on Essential Use Nominations,'' available from EPA, to guide applicants. Applicants should follow the guidelines in the handbook when preparing their exemption requests. Past applicants should note that the current TEAP handbook has been substantially revised to reflect Decision VIII/10 of the Parties.

Upon receipt of the exemption request, EPA reviews the application and works with other interested federal agencies to determine whether it meets the essential use criteria and as a result, warrants being nominated for an exemption. Applicants should be aware that recent essential use exemptions granted to the U.S. for 1997 were limited to chlorofluoro-carbons (CFCs) for metered dose inhalers (MDIs) to treat asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

In the case of multiple exemption requests for a single use, EPA aggregates exemption requests received from individual entities into a single U.S. request. An important part of the EPA review is to determine that the aggregate request for a particular out-year adequately reflects the market penetration potential and expected availability of CFC substitutes by that point in time. If the sum of individual requests does not incorporate such assumptions, the U.S. government may adjust the aggregate request to better reflect true market needs.

Nominations submitted to the Ozone Secretariat by the U.S. and other Parties are then forwarded to the UNEP TEAP and its Technical Options Committees (TOCs), which review the submissions and make recommendations to the Parties for exemptions. Those recommendations are then considered by the Parties at their annual meeting for final decision. If the Parties declare a specified use of a controlled substance as essential and issue the necessary exemptions from the production phaseout, EPA may propose regulatory changes to reflect the decisions by the Parties consistent with the Act.

The timing of the reviews is such that in any given year the Parties review nominations for exemption from the production phaseout intended for the following year and any subsequent years. This means that, if nominated, applications submitted in response to today's notice for CFC production in 1999 and beyond will be considered by the Parties in 1998 for final action at the Meeting of the Parties in September of that year.

II. Information Required for Essential Use Applications for Production or Importation of Class I Substances in 1999 and Subsequent Years

Through this notice, EPA requests applications for essential use exemptions for all Class I substances for 1999 and subsequent years. All requests for exemptions submitted to EPA must present the information relevant to the application as prescribed in the TEAP Handbook mentioned in the previous section. As noted earlier, the TEAP handbook has been substantially revised to incorporate Decision VIII/10 adopted by the Parties at their Eighth Meeting, in November 1996. Decision VIII/10 will require applicants to expand on information provided in previous nominations as well as provide new information. Since the U.S. government does not forward incomplete or inadequate nominations to the Ozone Secretariat, it is important for applicants to provide all information requested in the Handbook, including the information specified in the supplemental research and development form (page 43) and the accounting framework matrix (page 41). Parties have been asked to request this information from companies, and these forms will assist the EPA in preparing a complete and comprehensive nomination. In brief, the TEAP Handbook states that applicants must present information on:

- Role of use in society
- Alternatives to use, including education programs on alternatives
- Steps to minimize use, including development of CFC-free alternatives
- Steps to minimize emissions
- Amount of substance available through recycling and stockpiling
- Quantity of controlled substances requested by year.

EPA anticipates that the 1998 review by the Parties of MDI essential use requests will focus extensively on research efforts underway to develop alternatives to CFC MDIs, on education programs to inform patients and providers of the phaseout and the transition to alternatives, and on steps taken to minimize CFC use and emissions including efforts to recapture or reprocess the controlled substance. Accordingly, applicants are strongly advised to present detailed information on these points, including the scope and cost of such efforts and the medical and patient organizations involved in the work. Applicants can strengthen their exemption requests by submitting a complete set of education materials and including copies of printed, electronic or audio-visual tools. Applicants are given notice that exemption requests without adequate information on research and education will not be considered complete.

Applicants should submit their exemption requests to EPA as noted in the **ADDRESSES** section at the beginning of today's notice.

Dated: September 25, 1997.

Richard D. Wilson,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 97–26183 Filed 10–1–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–U

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–5902–6]

Availability of FY 96 Grant Performance Report for Georgia

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability of grantee performance evaluation report.

SUMMARY: EPA's grant regulations (40 CFR 35.150) require the Agency to evaluate the performance of agencies which receive grants. EPA's regulations for regional consistency (40 CFR 56.7) require that the Agency notify the public of the availability of the reports

of such evaluations. EPA recently performed an end-of-year evaluation of one state air pollution control program (Georgia Environmental Protection Division). This audit was conducted to assess the agency's performance under the grant made to them by EPA pursuant to section 105 of the Clean Air Act. EPA Region 4, has prepared a report for the state of Georgia identified above and is now available for public inspection.

ADDRESSES: The report may be examined at the EPA's Region 4 office, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, in the Air, Pesticides, and Toxics Management Division.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Thomas, (404) 562–9064, at the above Region 4 address.

Dated: September 24, 1997.

Michael V. Peyton,

Acting Regional Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97–26184 Filed 10–1–97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–5901–6]

National Drinking Water Advisory Council; Notice of Open Meetings

Under section 10(a)(2) of Pub. L. 92–423, ''The Federal Advisory Committee Act,'' notice is hereby given that a meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. S300f *et seq.*), will be held on October 15, 1997 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and October 16, 1997, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., at the Ramada Plaza Hotel Pentagon, 4641 Kenmore Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22304. The purpose of this meeting will be to provide the Council with the recommendations from the Operator Certification Working Group Report and to discuss with the Council the effectiveness and continued use of its working groups. Other issues to be covered at the meeting will include: A status on the activities of the Microbial Disinfectants/Disinfection By-products Federal Advisory Committee, SDWA implementation issues, accountability and performance measures.

This meeting is open to the public. The Council encourages the hearing of outside statements and will allocate one hour on October 15, 1997, for this purpose. Oral statements will be limited to ten minutes and it is preferred that only one person present the statement. Any outside parties interested in presenting an oral statement should petition the Council by telephone at (202) 260–2285 or by E-Mail at shaw.charlene@epamail.epa.gov by October 14, 1997.

Any person who wishes to file a written statement can do so before or after a Council meeting. Written statements received prior to the meeting will be distributed to all members of the Council before any final discussion or vote is completed. Any statements received after the meeting will become part of the permanent meeting file and will be forwarded to the Council members for their information.

Members of the public that would like to attend the meeting, present an oral statement, or submit a written statement, should contact Ms. Charlene Shaw, Designated Federal Officer, National Drinking Water Advisory Council, U.S. EPA, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (4601), 401 M Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20460. The telephone number is Area Code (202) 260–2285 or E-Mail shaw.charlene@epamail.epa.gov.

Dated: September 26, 1997.

Elizabeth Fellows,

Acting Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

[FR Doc. 97–26179 Filed 10–1–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–5900–8]

Announcement of Stakeholders Meeting on the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for Radon-222

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of stakeholders meeting.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be holding a one-day public meeting on Thursday, October 30, 1997, in Boston, MA. The purpose of this meeting is to present information on EPA's plans for activities to develop a proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for radon-222, and solicit public input on major technical and implementation issues, and on preferred approaches for continued public involvement. This upcoming meeting is the third of a series of stakeholders meetings on the NPDWR for radon. The first meeting was held on June 26, 1997 in Washington, DC and the second meeting on September 2, 1997 in San Francisco, CA. These meetings were initiated as part of the Drinking Water Program Redirection efforts to help refocus EPA's drinking water priorities and to support strong, flexible partnerships among EPA, States, Tribes, local governments, and the public. At the upcoming meeting, EPA is seeking input from State and Tribal drinking water and radon programs, the regulated community (public water systems), public health and safety organizations, environmental and public interest groups, and other stakeholders on a number of issues related to developing the NPDWR for radon. EPA encourages the full participation of stakeholders throughout this process.

DATES: The stakeholder meeting on the NPDWR for radon will be held on Thursday, October 30, 1997 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m EST. Check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: To register for the meeting, please contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1–800–426–4791. Those registered for the meeting by October 17, 1997 will receive an agenda, logistics sheet, and background materials prior to the meeting. The agenda and background materials will be similar to the previous stakeholders meetings on radon held in Washington, DC and San Francisco, CA. Members of the public who cannot participate may submit comments in writing by November 14, 1997 to Sylvia Malm, at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW (4607), Washington, DC, 20460. The meeting will be held in Boston, MA. The address of the meeting site will be included with the background materials or available from the Hotline.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on meeting logistics, please contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1–800–426–4791. For information on the activities related to developing the NPDWR for radon and other EPA activities under the Safe Drinking Water Act, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1–800–426–4791. For information on radon in indoor air, contact the National Safety Council's National Radon Hotline at 1–800–SOS–RADON.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

On July 18, 1991 (56 FR 33050), EPA proposed a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) and National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for radon and other radionuclides in public water supplies. EPA proposed to regulate radon at 300 pCi/L. Commenters on the 1991 proposed NPDWR for radon raised several concerns, including cost of implementation, especially for small