

III. Public Record

A record has been established for this action under docket number "OPPTS-00221" (including comments and data submitted electronically as described below). A public version of this record, including printed, paper versions of electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as CBI, is available for inspection from noon to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The public record is located in the TSCA Nonconfidential Information Center, Rm. NE-B607, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at:
oppt.ncic@epamail.epa.gov

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

The official record for this action, as well as the public version, as described above will be kept in paper form. Accordingly, EPA will transfer all comments received electronically into printed, paper form as they are received and will place the paper copies in the official record, which will also include all comments submitted directly in writing. The official record is the paper record maintained at the address in ADDRESSES at the beginning of this document.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection and Information collection requests.

Dated: September 24, 1997.

Susan H. Wayland,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.

[FR Doc. 97-26324 Filed 10-2-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5903-1]

Review and Evaluation of EPA Standards Regarding Children's Health Protection from Environmental Risks

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: As part of its ongoing commitment to protect children from environmental health risks, EPA will select five existing human health and environmental protection standards for review and evaluation to determine if

they sufficiently protect children's health. EPA is seeking recommendations and comment concerning standards it should select for review, including detailed explanations and reference to any studies that support that recommendations. EPA does not intend to review recently promulgated standards as part of this effort. The standards EPA ultimately will select for review and evaluation will be those that could potentially have a major impact on children's health as a result of reevaluation and vision. These standards would generally be those where children's health was not considered in the original development of the standard; or, where children's health was considered but new data suggest the standard does not adequately protect children; and where, if changes were made in the standard, children's health protection would be strengthened.

DATES: Comments must be in writing and received by December 2, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to Paula R. Goode, Office of Children's Health Protection, USEPA (MS 1102), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, goode.paula@epamail.epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paula R. Goode, (202) 260-7778.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Children in America today inhabit a world that is very different from that of two generations past. The traditional infectious diseases have largely been eradicated. Infant mortality is greatly reduced. The expected life span of a baby born now in the United States is more than two decades longer than that of a child born at the beginning of the twentieth century. However, children today face hazards in the environment that were neither known nor suspected only a few decades ago. At least 75,000 new synthetic chemical compounds have been developed and introduced into commerce; fewer than half of these compounds have been tested for their potential toxicity to humans, and fewer still have been assessed for their specific toxicity to children.

Children's exposures to lead, pesticides, PCBs, and toxic air pollutants are widespread. Compared to adults, children are particularly vulnerable and at increased risk from many environmental threats in four ways (1) Children's organ systems are still developing—including rapid changes in growth and development immature body organs and tissues, and weaker immune systems—which makes them more susceptible to environmental hazards; (2) pound-for-pound, children

breathe more air, drink more water and eat more food than adults; (3) children's exposures to toxins are further enhanced by their play close to the ground and their normal hand-to-mouth activity; and (4) children have more future years of life than adults and are more susceptible to chronic, multi-stage diseases such as cancer or neurodegenerative disease that may be triggered by early exposures. Environmental health hazards that threaten children range from air pollution that triggers asthma attacks and lead-based paint in older housing, to treatment-resistant microbes in drinking water and persistent industrial chemicals that may cause cancer to induce reproductive or developmental changes.

EPA Administrator Carol Browner set forth a National Agenda to Protect Children's Health From Environmental Threats in EPA's publication, Environmental Health Treats to Children, September, 1996, to ensure that children receive the protection they need and deserve, and help fulfill our nation's obligation to protect future generations. This agenda includes a commitment to "ensure that all standards EPA sets are protective of the potentially heightened risks faced by children, and that the most significant existing standards be reevaluated."

As stated in the Summary section of this notice, EPA will select and then review and evaluate five human health and environmental protection standards that establish discrete regulatory levels. The standards most suitable for this effort are those that if revised as a result of the review and evaluation, would strengthen and increase children's environmental health protection. The term "standard" for purposes of this notice means national standards established by EPA that identify discrete regulatory levels related to human health and environmental protection. Examples of such standards include pesticide tolerances that establish allowable levels of pesticide residues in food under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, Maximum Contaminant Levels that establish allowable levels of contaminants in drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act; and, health-based regulations that establish acceptable levels for air pollutants under the Clean Air Act. EPA will consider comments and recommendations on such standards in all the environmental media (air, water, soil, etc.). The term "standard" as used in this Notice does not include standards establishing analytical methods, technology-based standards, or site specific actions (such as facility

permits under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, or Records of Decision for cleanup of Superfund sites).

In selecting the five standards for review and reevaluation EPA will consider a variety of factors including any new information since the standards were originally promulgated, as follows:

- New scientific information or new data regarding adverse health effects on children;
- New understanding of routes of exposure to children;
- Whether the regulated substance/pollutant is persistent and bioaccumulative;
- New methodologies of evaluating human health risks;
- New epidemiology studies;
- New toxicity studies; and
- New environmental monitoring studies.

As part of this effort, EPA will convene a balanced, broad-based external Advisory Committee, chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, to give advice to the Administrator on various issues of children's environmental health protection. Notice of the establishment of this Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC) was published on September 9, 1997 (62 FR 47494). CHPAC will consider recommendations received by EPA as a result of this notice and other information. Comments and other information received as a result on this notice will be placed in a docket that will be established for CHPAC. EPA will ask the Committee to recommend five standards that EPA should reevaluate with respect to children's health protection. CHPAC meetings will be announced in the **Federal Register** and open to the public. The Administrator will consider the Committee's recommendations and the recommendations and comments received in response to this Notice. EPA intends to announce the five selected standards in a **Federal Register** notice in early Summer of 1998.

This EPA effort will help fulfill President Clinton's Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks, signed on April 21, 1997. This Order, in part, directs each Federal agency to set as a high priority the identification and assessment of environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children; and ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to

children that result from environmental health risks or safety risks.

Dated: September 26, 1997.

E. Ramona Trovato,

Director, Office of Children's Health Protection.

[FR Doc. 97-26320 Filed 10-2-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5902-8]

Consent Decree: Phoenix Federal Implementation Plan for Carbon Monoxide

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of proposed consent decree; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 113(g) of the Clean Air Act ("Act"), notice is hereby given of a proposed consent decree in litigation instituted against the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") regarding implementation of the contingency measure provisions of the Carbon Monoxide (CO) Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) for Phoenix, Arizona.

EPA originally promulgated CO FIP contingency measures for Phoenix in 1991 pursuant to a court order in *Delaney v. EPA*, 898 F.2d 687 (9th Cir. 1990). 56 FR 5458 (Feb. 11, 1991). In 1996 EPA approved CO contingency measures submitted by the State of Arizona, and withdrew the previously promulgated FIP contingency measures for Phoenix. 61 FR 51599 (Oct. 3, 1996). This action was challenged by the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest (ACLPI), and was recently overturned by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. *DiSimone v. Browner*, 1997 U.S. App. LEXIS 19796 (July 31, 1997).

Subsequently, ACLPI filed an action in District Court to compel implementation of the FIP contingency provisions. *DiSimone v. Browner*, No. CIV 97-1987 PHXRGs, D. Ariz. In order to resolve this matter without protracted litigation, ACLPI and EPA have reached agreement on a proposed consent decree which has been signed by the parties and lodged with the court on Sept. 25, 1997. The consent decree provides that, unless EPA previously approves a state submitted attainment demonstration for CO for Phoenix, EPA will sign an initial notice of proposed rulemaking pursuant to the FIP contingency provisions by no later than Nov. 26, 1998, and will complete the remainder of the requirements of the FIP contingency

provisions according to the timeframes specified in those procedures.

For a period of thirty [30] days following the date of publication of this notice, the Agency will receive written comments relating to the proposed consent decree. EPA or the Department of Justice may withhold or withdraw consent to the proposed consent decree if the comments disclose facts or circumstances that indicate that such consent is inappropriate, improper, inadequate, or inconsistent with the requirements of the Act.

Copies of the proposed consent decree are available from Sara Schneeberg, Air and Radiation Division (2344), Office of General Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20460, (202) 260-5145. Written comments should be sent to Sara Schneeberg at the above address and must be submitted on or before November 3, 1997.

Dated: September 26, 1997.

Scott C. Fulton,

Acting General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 97-26318 Filed 10-2-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-5484-8]

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7167 or (202) 564-7153.

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements Filed September 22, 1997 Through September 26, 1997 Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

EIS No. 970372, DRAFT EIS, FRC, MT, Missouri-Madison Hydroelectric (FERC No. 2188) Project, Issuing a New licence (Relicence) for Nine Dams and Associated Facilities, MT, Due: December 2, 1997, Contact: John McEachern (202) 219-3056.

EIS No. 970373, FINAL EIS, AFS, UT, Western Uinta Basin Oil and Gas Leasing, Implementation, Federal Oil and Gas Estate on Land Administred by the Uinta and Ashley National Forests in the western portion of the Uinta Basin, Wasatch and Duchesne Counties, UT, Due: November 3, 1997, Contact: Laura Jo West (801) 781-5167.

EIS No. 970374, DRAFT EIS, COE, CA, San Francisco Bay to Stockton Phase III (John F. Baldwin) Navigation Channel Project, Construction and Operation, For Deliver of Petroleum to Refineries, Storage Terminals and