

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: August 3, 1998.

Robert Perciasepe,

Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 98-21346 Filed 8-7-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6140-1]

Availability of FY 97 Grant Performance Reports for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability of grantee performance evaluation reports.

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 end-of-year evaluations of seven state air pollution control programs (Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection, Mississippi Bureau of Pollution Control, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control), and 16 local programs (Knox County Department of Air Pollution Control, TN; Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau, TN; Memphis-Shelby County Health Department, TN; Nashville-Davidson

County Metropolitan Health Department, TN; Jefferson County Air Pollution Control District, KY; Western North Carolina Regional Air Pollution Control Agency, NC; Mecklenburg County Department of Environmental Protection, NC; Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Department, NC; Palm Beach County Public Health Unit, FL; Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission, FL; Dade County Environmental Resources Management, FL; Jacksonville Air Quality Division, FL; Broward County Environmental Quality Control Board, FL; Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management, FL; City of Huntsville Department of Natural Resources, AL; Jefferson County Department of Health, AL). The 23 evaluations were conducted to assess the agencies' performance under the grants awarded by EPA under authority of section 105 of the Clean Air Act. EPA Region 4 has prepared reports for each agency identified above and these reports are now available for public inspection. The State of Tennessee's evaluation will be made available for public review at a later date.

ADDRESSES: The reports 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, for information concerning the state agencies in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Georgia, and the local agencies in those states. Vera Bowers, (404) 562-9053, at the above Region 4 address, for information concerning the state agencies in Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and the local agencies in those states.

Dated: July 30, 1998.

Winston A. Smith,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 4.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6141-2]

Announcement of Stakeholder Forums on Perchlorate in Water

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of stakeholder forums.

SUMMARY: The Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee (IPSC) will be holding two one-day stakeholder forums

on August 25, 1998 in Salt Lake City, Utah, and on August 27, 1998 in Phoenix, Arizona. The IPSC, a working partnership of government agencies chartered to facilitate identification of the issues and coordinate the exchange of scientific information related to potential perchlorate contamination in the environment, includes representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Defense (DoD), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), Native American Tribes, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Utah Department of Health Laboratories, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission and California Department of Health Services. The purpose of these stakeholder forums is to disseminate information on the key scientific issues, to identify additional issues, and to hear stakeholder concerns. This meeting will be similar in content to the perchlorate stakeholders meeting the IPSC held in Henderson, Nevada on May 19-21, 1998. At the upcoming meeting, the IPSC is again seeking input from State and Tribal drinking water programs, the regulated community (public water systems), public health organizations, academia, environmental and public interest groups, engineering firms, and the public on a number of issues related to perchlorate contamination in the environment. The IPSC encourages the full participation of stakeholders at the forum.

DATES: The Salt Lake City, Utah forum will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 1998 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. MST. An additional public evening session will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. MST. The Phoenix, Arizona forum will be held on Thursday, August 27, 1998 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. MST.

ADDRESSES: The August 25, 1998 forum will be held at the Department of Environmental Quality, 168 North, 1950 West, Building 2, Room 101. The August 27, 1998 forum will be held at Arizona State University, West Campus, UCB Building, La Sala Rm. B & C. To register, please contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline via e-mail at hotline-sdwa@epamail.epa.gov or by calling 1-800-426-4791 or 703-285-1093 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. EDT. Those registered by August 18, 1998, will receive a draft agenda, logistics information, and discussion papers prior to the forum. When registering, please indicate it is for the

"Perchlorate Forum", specify which meeting you will attend and provide your name, organization, title, mailing address, telephone number, facsimile number, and e-mail address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information on forum logistics, please contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

Perchlorate is used as an oxidizer component in solid propellant (fuel) for rockets, missiles, and fireworks. It is very soluble in water, mobile in aqueous systems and can persist for many decades under typical ground water and surface water conditions. Recent (April 1997) advances in the analytical detection capability for low concentrations of perchlorate, from 400 to 4 parts per billion (ppb), have led to the discovery of the chemical at various manufacturing sites and some drinking water supply wells of communities in California, Nevada, and Utah. Perchlorate has been found in ground water at six Superfund hazardous waste sites in California, at six other California non-Superfund waste sites, two sites in the Henderson, Nevada area, one site in Utah, and in the discharge to a creek in Texas. Water suppliers in both northern and southern California, and the Las Vegas Water Authority have found perchlorate in their water supplies generally at levels less than 18 ppb but ranging as high as 280 ppb, with several in the 100–200 ppb range. Perchlorate has also been detected at low levels (5 to 9 ppb) in the Colorado River.

Concerns have been raised about perchlorate because of the lack of adequate scientific information about the contaminant, including: where the contamination occurs, what reliable methods exist to detect it in various media, what the potential health effects are, and what treatment technologies exist. Historically, potassium perchlorate was used therapeutically to treat hyperthyroidism in Graves' Disease patients because it inhibits iodine uptake and thereby reduces thyroid hormone production. Thyroid hormone deficiencies can affect normal metabolism, growth, and development.

Currently, perchlorate does not have a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) or Health Advisory (HA) established. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), as amended in 1996, EPA is required to develop a list of contaminants, known as the Contaminant Candidate List (CCL), that are known or anticipated to

occur in public water systems and may require regulation under SDWA (section 1412(b)(1)). As a result of public comment on a draft of the CCL published on October 6, 1998 (62 FR 52193), perchlorate was added to the final CCL that was published on March 2, 1998 (63 FR 10274). At this time, additional research on health effects, effective treatment technologies, analytical methods, and occurrence is necessary before a determination can be made of whether to regulate perchlorate with an NPDWR or to develop guidance.

B. Request for Public Involvement

The IPSC is encouraging development of a sound research and management strategy by the involved government agencies through facilitating identification of the issues concerning perchlorate contamination and by coordinating information exchange to ensure the incorporation of the best available science and stakeholder input on technical and policy issues.

The stakeholder forum will cover a broad range of topics including: (1) key exposure characterization issues (occurrence and sites of known contamination, transport and transformation, analytical methods); (2) perchlorate health risk assessment (health effects and toxicology studies, the peer review process); (3) key technical assessments (treatment technologies, waste stream handling); (4) ecological impacts; (5) regulatory and policy issues and; (6) future stakeholder involvement. Background materials on perchlorate issues will be sent in advance of the forum to those who register with the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline by August 18, 1998.

The IPSC has announced this forum to hear the views of stakeholders on actions that the agencies represented by the IPSC are taking or are planning to take to address perchlorate contamination. The public is invited to participate fully during the August 25, 1998 and August 27, 1998 forums and during future opportunities for stakeholder participation.

Dated: August 5, 1998.

Cynthia C. Dougherty,

Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6139-9]

Notice of Availability of Final Guidance on Implementing the Capacity Development Provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, and Information for States on Implementing the Capacity Development Provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is making available final Guidance on Implementing the Capacity Development Provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996. This guidance contains four parts: (1) Introduction to the Technical, Managerial, and Financial Capacity of Water Systems, (2) Guidance on DWSRF Withholding Determinations Related to State Programs for Ensuring That All New Community Water Systems and New Nontransient, Noncommunity Water Systems Demonstrate Technical, Managerial, and Financial Capacity (3) Guidance on DWSRF Withholding Determinations Related to State Capacity Development Strategies, and (4) Guidance on Assessment of Capacity for Purposes of Awarding SRF Assistance. The purpose of this guidance is to implement national policy which clarifies the statutory requirements of the capacity development related provisions of the SDWA. Part 2 of this guidance fulfills the Agency's obligation under section 1420(d)(4) to publish guidance related to new system capacity.

EPA is also making available two information documents related to capacity development. First, EPA is making available final Information for States on Implementing the Capacity Development Provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996. The primary purpose of this document is to complement the aforementioned guidance, and offer States ideas and suggestions as they begin to formulate capacity development programs under the Act. Second, EPA is making available Information for the Public on Participating in Preparing State Capacity Development Strategies. The purpose of this document is provide the public with information enabling them to effectively participate in the