

there is a reasonable likelihood that a committee can be established with a balanced representation of interested parties who would be willing to negotiate in good faith to reach consensus; (4) there is a reasonable likelihood that the committee would be able to reach consensus; (5) the negotiated rulemaking procedure will not unreasonably delay the promulgating of a fixed-anchor rule; (6) the agency has adequate resources to finance the committee operations; and (7) to the extent practicable, the agency will use the consensus of the committee as the basis for a proposed rule.

Having considered the recommendations of the convener in the January 26, 1999, report, the Secretary has decided that the establishment of the committee is in the public interest in connection with the Forest Service's responsibility to administer congressional designated wilderness areas in accordance with the Wilderness Act. The Committee meetings will serve as a forum in which committee members, with input from other interested parties, can discuss issues involved in regulating the use of fixed anchors for recreational climbing purposes in wilderness areas administered by the Forest Service. The Secretary believes that this process will enable the agency to develop and promulgate effective regulations governing the use of these devices within wilderness areas on National Forest System lands.

Key Issues To Be Considered for Negotiation

Among the issues that may be considered by the Committee during the course of their deliberations are the following:

- What type of rock climbing-related equipment should be allowed in wilderness areas and under what circumstances;
- What process should be used to decide whether the insertion or removal of a fixed anchor should take place and who should be party to the decision;
- Who should be responsible for the insertion and removal of fixed anchors; and
- What is the impact on the Forest Service and the climbing industry if the agency assumes an active role in regulating the use, the insertion, and the removal of fixed anchors.

Proposed Committee Membership

The January 26, 1999, convening report identified the interest most likely to be directly affected by a fixed anchor in wilderness regulation as including the following: climbers, outfitters,

education/experience providers; environmental organizations, and conservation organizations. The following parties have been identified as potential participants on the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee: Access Fund; American Alpine Club; American Mountain Guide Association; Idaho Conservation League; National Outdoor Leadership School; National Parks and Conservation Association; Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America; Outward Bound; Recreation Equipment Incorporated; Sierra Club; Wild Wilderness; Wilderness Society; Wilderness Watch; and Steve Wolper, an active climber as well as an advocate for wilderness conservation. The report also mentioned that Native Americans may have concerns about fixed-anchor issues that are different from the concerns of the other interests and, therefore, should be represented on the Committee.

The Forest Service representative, Larry Gadt, Director of Minerals and Geology, will participate in the deliberations and activities of the Committee with the same rights and responsibilities as other Committee members. This official will be authorized to fully represent the agency in the discussions and negotiations of the Committee. Three other Federal land management agencies, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Fish and Wildlife Service, will have representatives who will serve as consultants to the Forest Service to provide their perspective on the issues. These Federal agencies will not participate as members on the Committee.

The Forest Service will consider nominations for Committee membership from organizations or interests that believe they may be substantially affected by the subject of the negotiations. Each application or nomination for membership or nomination to the Committee should include: (1) The name, address, telephone number(s), and e-mail address(s) of the nominee; (2) the organization the nominee will represent; (3) written documentation from the organization providing evidence that the applicant or nominee is authorized to represent that organization or interest and participate in the negotiated rulemaking process; (4) a promise from the nominee to participate in the negotiated rulemaking proceedings in good faith, and (5) the reasons that the interests or persons specified in this notice do not adequately represent this applicant's interest.

It is not necessary that every concerned organization be represented

on the Committee as long as every significant interest is represented. In addition, the Negotiated Rulemaking Act restrict the total number of representatives on a committee to twenty-five (25). Nonetheless, the Department will carefully consider any and all nominations received from individuals or organizations not included on the Proposed Committee Membership list.

Schedule of Meetings

After the 30-day comment period for this notice ends, the Forest Service will review the comment received on establishment of the committee and the nominations and provide the information to the Secretary. Following appointment of members by the Secretary, the agency will publish a notice announcing the names of the individuals and the interests that represent and give notice of the first meeting's location and time. The agency expects to hold three meetings, with each meeting consisting of two to three 8-hour days for the committee to negotiate the issues raised at the convening stage and other issues relevant to the use of fixed anchors in wilderness. The first meeting is to be held within 60 days of the establishment of the committee and appointment of its membership. The meetings and their agendas will be announced in the **Federal Register**. Administrative staff support for the meetings will be provided by the Forest Service. Assuming that the committee reaches consensus, the agency would attempt to publish a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** reflecting that consensus within six months following submission of the committee's report to the Secretary.

Dated: October 20, 1999.

Sally Thompson,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration.

[FR Doc. 99-28219 Filed 10-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[MD081-3043b; FRL-6449-4]

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Maryland; Enhanced Inspection & Maintenance Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA proposes to convert our conditional approval of the Maryland's State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision for an enhanced vehicle inspection and maintenance (I/M) program to a full approval. In the Final Rules section of this **Federal Register**, EPA is converting its conditional approval to a full approval as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as noncontroversial and anticipates no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for the full approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no adverse comments are received in response to this action, no further activity is contemplated. If EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. EPA will not institute a second comment period on this action. Parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing by November 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be mailed to David L. Arnold, Chief, Ozone and Mobile Sources Branch, Mailcode 3AP21, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103. Copies of the documents relevant to this action are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Air Protection Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103; the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460; and the Maryland Department of the Environment, 2500 Broening Highway, Baltimore, Maryland, 21224. Please contact Christopher Cripps at (215) 814-2179 if you wish to arrange an appointment to view the docket at the Philadelphia office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Cripps, (215) 814-2179, at the EPA Region III address above, or by e-mail at cripps.christopher@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For further information, please see the information provided in the direct final action, with the same title, that is located in the "Rules and Regulations" section of this **Federal Register** publication.

Dated: September 20, 1999.

W. Michael McCabe,

Regional Administrator, Region III.

[FR Doc. 99-27198 Filed 10-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 372

[OPPTS-400140B; FRL-6391-6]

RIN 2070-AD38

Lead and Lead Compounds; Lowering of Reporting Thresholds; Community Right-to-Know Toxic Chemical Release Reporting; Extension of Comment Period

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On August 3, 1999, EPA issued a proposed rule to lower the reporting thresholds for lead and lead compounds which are subject to reporting under section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) and section 6607 of the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 (PPA). The proposed rule also included a limitation on the reporting of lead when contained in certain alloys and proposed modifications to certain reporting exemptions and requirements for lead and lead compounds. On September 21, 1999, EPA issued a **Federal Register** document extending the comment period 45 days until November 1, 1999. The purpose of today's action is to inform interested parties that, in an effort to ensure adequate opportunities for input from all affected parties, including small businesses, EPA is extending the comment period by another 45 days until December 16, 1999. The comment period for the proposed rule was initially scheduled to close on September 17, 1999, and was extended 45 days to November 1, 1999. **DATES:** Written comments, identified by the docket control number OPPTS-400140, must be received by EPA on or before December 16, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by mail, electronically, or in person. Please follow the detailed instructions for each method as provided in Unit I. of the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For technical information on this action contact: Daniel R. Bushman, Petitions

Coordinator, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 7408, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number 202-260-3882, e-mail address: bushman.daniel@epa.gov. For general information on EPCRA section 313, contact the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Hotline, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 5101, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460, Toll free: 1-800-535-0202, in Virginia and Alaska: 703-412-9877 or Toll free TDD: 1-800-553-7672.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

You may be potentially affected by this action if you manufacture, process, or otherwise use lead or lead compounds. Potentially affected categories and entities may include, but are not limited to:

Category	Examples of Potentially Affected Entities
Industry	Facilities that: process copper ores, lead and zinc ores; operate pulp mills, petroleum refineries, primary copper smelters, primary and secondary nonferrous metal smelters, gray/ductile iron foundries, steel foundries, blast furnaces, steel mills, petroleum bulk stations and terminals, industrial boilers that burn coal, wood, petroleum products, and electric utilities that combust coal and/or oil for distribution of electricity in commerce; facilities that manufacture, process, or use inorganic pigments, small arms ammunition, asphalt paving mixtures and blocks, storage batteries, motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment; manufacture electronic components and accessories.
Federal Government	Federal facilities that: manufacture, process, or use lead or lead compounds; burn coal or petroleum products.

This table is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide for readers regarding entities likely to be affected by this action. Other types of entities not listed in the table could also be affected. To determine whether your