

2000. Please consult the database website (above) for status and availability of this update.

Dated: December 5, 2001.

George W. Alapas,
*Acting Director, National Center for
Environmental Assessment.*

[FR Doc. 01-31175 Filed 12-17-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7118-9]

Proposed Agreement and Covenant Not To Sue Pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as Amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986; In Re: Gardner and Hubbardston Superfund Site, Gardner, Massachusetts

AGENCY: Environmental Protection
Agency.

ACTION: Notice of proposed agreement;
request for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. 9601, *et seq.*, notice is hereby given of a proposed Agreement and Covenant Not to Sue between the United States, on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and The Gardner Little League, Inc. ("Purchaser"). The Purchaser plans to acquire approximately 10 acres of property that is currently owned by Mr. Ronald Kirwood. The Purchaser intends to use the property to construct a youth baseball facility. Under the Proposed Agreement, the United States grants a Covenant Not to Sue to the Purchaser with respect to existing contamination at the Site in exchange for the Purchaser's agreement to pay EPA \$12,000. In addition, the Purchaser agrees to provide an irrevocable right of access to representatives of EPA.

For thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this notice, the Agency will receive written comments relating to the settlement. The Agency will consider all comments received and may modify or withdraw its consent to the settlement if comments received disclose facts or considerations which indicate that the settlement is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate. The Agency's response to any comments received will be available for public inspection at One Congress Street, Boston, MA 02214.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before January 17, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Michelle Lauterback, Enforcement Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Regional I, One Congress Street, Suite 1100, Mail code SES, Boston, Massachusetts 02203, and should refer to: In re: Gardner and Hubbardston Superfund Site, U.S. EPA Docket No. CERCLA-01-2001-0076.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of the proposed Agreement and Covenant Not to Sue can be obtained from Sharon Fennelly, Enforcement Coordinator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I, One Congress Street, Mailcode HBR, Boston, Massachusetts 02214, (617) 918-1263.

Dated: November 7, 2001.

Robert V. Varney,
Regional Administrator, Region I.

[FR Doc. 01-31180 Filed 12-17-01; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7119-5]

Notice of Final NPDES General Permit; Final NPDES General Permit for New and Existing Sources and New Dischargers in the Offshore Subcategory of the Oil and Gas Extraction Category for the Western Portion of the Outer Continental Shelf of the Gulf of Mexico (GMG290000)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA Region 6 today issues a modification of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit for the Western Portion of the Outer Continental Shelf of the Gulf of Mexico (No. GMG290000) for discharges from new sources, existing sources, and new dischargers in the Offshore Subcategory of the Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category (40 CFR part 435, subpart A). The modified permit will become effective February 19, 2002. The existing permit published in the **Federal Register**, at 64 FR 19156 on April 19, 1999, authorizes discharges from exploration, development, and production facilities located in and discharging to Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico seaward of the outer boundary of the territorial seas offshore of Louisiana and Texas. Today's action adds the authorization to discharge of drill cuttings generated using synthetic and other non-aqueous based drilling

fluids and hydrostatic test water form pressure testing of existing pipelines.

A copy of the Region's responses to comments and the final permit may be obtained from the EPA Region 6 internet site: <http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6wq/6wq.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Diane Smith, EPA Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202, Telephone: (214) 665 7191, or via EMAIL to the following address: smith.diane@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Regulated Entities.* Entities potentially regulated by this action are those which operate offshore oil and gas extraction facilities located in the Outer Continental Shelf Offshore of Louisiana and Texas.

Category	Examples of regulated entities
Industry	Offshore Oil and Gas Extraction Platforms.

This table lists the types of entities that EPA is now aware could potentially be regulated by this action. Other types of entities not listed in the table could also be regulated. To determine whether your (facility, company, business, organization, etc.) is regulated by this action, you should carefully examine the applicability criteria in Part I. Section A.1. of the general permit. If you have questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed in the preceding **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Pursuant to section 402 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. 1342, EPA proposed and solicited comments on NPDES general permit GMG290000 at 63 FR 2238 (January 14, 1998). Notice of this proposed permit modification was also published in the New Orleans Times Picayune and the Lafayette Daily Advisor on June 9, 2001. The comment period closed on August 6, 2001.

Region 6 received comments from the Offshore Operators Committee, M-I LLC, Baroid Drilling Fluids, Petro-Canada, and B.P. Chemicals.

EPA Region 6 has considered all comments received. In response to those comments, protocol were included in the final permit for the new test methods for sediment toxicity and biodegradation. A statistical tool was also included in the final permit to account for variability in those new test methods. Several clarifications were also made in the permit's language.

The permit modification includes limits and monitoring requirements for six new parameters. Monitoring for those parameters and implementation of

the required test methods have not previously been required for offshore oil and gas discharges. Industry is therefore expected to need some time to get the necessary equipment in place and train personnel prior to beginning the monitoring. The effective date of the permit is being delayed by thirty days to accommodate those needs.

EPA also expects that many operators will not be able to comply with several of the permit's new limits on the effective date. Operators may be unable to get new equipment in place to meet the new limits for retention of drilling fluid on drill cuttings. There may be an insufficient stock of synthetic base fluids which comply with the new limits. Also, time will be needed to complete the 275 day biodegradation test and to develop sufficient laboratory capacity and stocks of organisms to conduct the sediment toxicity test. For those reasons administrative compliance orders are being issued requiring those discharges not in compliance with the new limitations to comply within six months.

The industry has requested an additional delay in the compliance requirements for the 4-day sediment toxicity limit until February 1, 2003. There are several complicating factors that will initially make compliance with the limit more difficult than with the stock base fluid sediment toxicity limit. Since the 4-day sediment toxicity test is used to measure toxicity of discharged drilling fluids, not just stock base fluids, components and additives to the drilling fluids will initially make compliance with the limits more difficult. The four day test has been shown to have more inherent variability than the ten day test. Also, demand on laboratories conducting the four day test will be much greater than for the ten day test; thus, there is more of a need to build laboratory capacity and develop an adequate supply of test organisms. The administrative compliance order will therefore require operators to comply with the 4-day sediment toxicity limit by February 1, 2003.

Sam Becker,

Acting Director, Water Quality Protection Division, Region 6.

[FR Doc. 01-31176 Filed 12-17-01; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Meeting of the Drug Control Research, Data, and Evaluation Committee

AGENCY: Office of National Drug Control Policy.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: ONDCP will convene a meeting of the Drug Control Research, Data, and Evaluation Advisory Committee on January 17-18, 2002, at the White House Conference Center located at 726 Jackson Place, NW., Washington, DC. The meeting will begin promptly each day at 9 am and adjourn at 4 pm. The agenda will include general discussion and briefs on national drug use indicators and other federal drug control initiatives including, but not limited to the following: (1) Interagency Oxycontin Work Group Progress Report on an Early Warning System for Pharmaceutical Diversion Abuse; (2) a Redesign Proposal for the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN); (3) ONDCP's Anti-Drug Media Campaign Evaluation; (4) 2001 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse State Estimates of Treatment Need and Drug Use Prevalence; (5) The RAMONA Project (Random Access Monitoring of Narcotics Addicts); (6) HHS's Report on Closing the Drug Abuse Treatment Gap: A Report to the President of the U.S.; (7) Updates on Drug Free Communities Grant Program; and (8) Activities related to: prevention, families, schools, and workplaces. There will be an opportunity for public comment from 11:30 am to 12 Noon on Thursday, January 17, 2002.

DATES: January 17-18, 2002, 9 am to 4:00 pm. Opportunity for public comment from 11:30 am to 12:00 noon on Thursday, January 17, 2002.

ADDRESSES: White House Conference Center, 726 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Linda V. Priebe, Assistant General Counsel, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Washington, DC (202) 395-6622.

Dated: December 11, 2001.

Linda V. Priebe,

Assistant General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 01-31055 Filed 12-17-01; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[CC Docket No. 96-45; DA 01-2841]

Common Carrier Bureau Seeks Comment on Pine Belt Cellular and Pine Belt PCS Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Alabama

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice; solicitation of comments.

SUMMARY: In a Public Notice in this proceeding released on December 7, 2001, the Common Carrier Bureau sought comment on the Pine Belt Cellular and Pine Belt PCS Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Alabama, including the requested service area.

DATES: Comments are due on or before January 17, 2002. Reply comments are due on or before February 1, 2002.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for where and how to file comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Richard D. Smith or Anita Cheng, Attorney, or Sheryl Todd, Management Analyst, Common Carrier Bureau, Accounting Policy Division, (202) 418-7400 TTY: (202) 418-0484.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 26, 2001, Pine Belt Cellular and Pine Belt PCS (Pine Belt) filed with the Commission a petition under section 214(e)(6) seeking designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) to receive federal universal service support for service offered in Alabama. Specifically, Pine Belt contends that the Alabama Public Service Commission has provided an affirmative statement that it lacks jurisdiction to consider Pine Belt's petition, Pine Belt meets all the statutory and regulatory prerequisites for ETC designation, and designating Pine Belt as an ETC will serve the public interest. The Common Carrier Bureau seeks comment on the Pine Belt Petition, including the requested service area.

The petitioner must provide copies of its petition to the Alabama Public Service Commission at the time of filing with the Commission. The Commission will also send a copy of this Notice to the Alabama Public Service Commission by overnight express mail to ensure that the Alabama Public Service Commission is notified of the notice and comment period.