

- Creating cost savings through regulatory efficiency that are reinvested in innovative technology development and deployment.

XL provides the climate in which technical innovation can thrive and flourish. A company or federal facility seeking to develop processes that minimize the impact of its activities and products or other technologies that help in the monitoring of these impacts may be thwarted by a legal requirement, regulatory infrastructure, policy or other procedure that treats individual environmental problems in isolation, or that imposes a particular solution based on prior technological constraints. Project XL can provide an innovative industrial or federal facility with the site-specific flexibility needed to surmount these barriers.

By facilitating discussions among various stakeholders during project development, Project XL provides the innovative industrial or federal facility with a forum to dialogue with technology suppliers, regulators, users and customers to exchange information and generate ideas that simulate new approaches to environmentally-responsible manufacturing.

EPA is soliciting proposals that prototype technological applications that lower compliance costs, that minimize the risk of environmental liability, or that enhance operational flexibility. By demonstrating the competitive advantage that facilities obtain through the use of innovative environmental technologies, Project XL can strengthen the demand for those technologies while allowing the collective wisdom or individual facilities to determine which technology options best optimizes the twin objectives of economic and environmental performance.

Procedures for Application

Basic procedures for submission and review of an XL for Facilities, Sectors, or Federal Facilities proposal and for submission of an XL for Communities proposal are contained in the May 23, 1995, and November 1, 1995, Federal Register, respectively. Additionally, project proponents are encouraged to state why they believe the projects they are submitting are particularly innovative. EPA intends to work cooperatively with project proponents to develop and refine acceptable approaches. At the same time, the Agency and its partners in the State and Tribal environmental agencies must retain the ultimate authority to select projects based on a qualitative consideration of the project relative to XL selection criteria. Moreover, given

the limited and pilot nature of XL, projects that satisfy many or all of the criteria may nonetheless not be selected if, in the Agency's judgment, other proposed projects better serve the objectives of the program. Moreover, no person is required to submit a proposal or obtain approval as a condition of commencing or continuing a regulated activity. Accordingly, there will be no formal administrative review available for proposals that are not selected, nor does EPA believe there will be a right to judicial review.

Supplementary Information on Process Streamlining

Project XL, since its inception on March 16, 1996 by President Clinton, has been implemented by a process developed by EPA with the help of potential sponsors, stakeholders, and state and tribal environmental agencies. This process was outlined in the May 23, 1995, Federal Register and further explained in EPA's December 1, 1995, draft Principles for Development of Project XL Final Project Agreements. That process has five stages: solicitation, selection, development, implementation and evaluation. Today EPA is announcing its intent to revise the process to respond to many concerns voiced during the initial round of project negotiations. While the Agency is not yet prepared to provide a detailed account of these changes, EPA believes is important to signal our willingness to make some mid-course corrections designed to streamline and improve the XL process. These changes will be aimed at several different aspects of the process, but will include:

- Improving the quality of XL project proposals by asking project proponents to include a clear statement how the proposal meets the XL criteria, including a discussion of the regulatory flexibility requested, the environmental benefits to be achieved, and the proposed plan for stakeholder involvement;
- Defining some principles of superior environmental performance to consider when developing proposals;
- Defining some principles for including local community members and other stakeholders in the project development process;
- Management of the XL program and the project development process;
- Strengthening internal EPA management of the XL program and the project development process;
- Promoting internal cultural change among regulators toward a new, more participatory approach to environmental protection; and

- Providing national and local level stakeholders with expanded opportunities for participation and input through greater access to information and resources.

Dated: September 6, 1996.

Jon Kessler,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Policy, Planning, and Evaluation.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5607-8]

Ozone, Particulate Matter and Regional Haze

Implementation Programs Subcommittee Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: On September 11, 1995 (60 FR 47172), the EPA announced the establishment of the Ozone, Particulate Matter and Regional Haze Implementation Programs Subcommittee under the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee (CAAAC). The CAAAC was established on November 8, 1990 (55 FR 46993) pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. app I). The purpose of the Subcommittee is to provide advice and recommendations on integrated approaches for implementing potentially new national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ozone and particulate matter, as well as a regional haze program.

OPEN MEETING: Notice is hereby given that the Subcommittee for Development of Ozone, Particulate Matter and Regional Haze Implementation Programs will hold its next public meeting on Thursday, September 26, 1996 (from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.) and Friday, September 27 (from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.).

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott, 235 East Main Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23510.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on the Subcommittee for Development of Ozone, Particulate Matter and Regional Haze Implementation Programs, please contact Mr. William F. Hamilton, Designated Federal Officer, at 919-541-5498, or by mail at U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards,

MD-12, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711. When a draft agenda is developed, a copy can be downloaded from the Ozone/Particulate Matter/Regional Haze FACA Bulletin Board, which is located on the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards Technology Transfer Network (OAQPS TTN) or by contacting Ms. Denise M. Gerth at 919-541-5550.

Dated: August 29, 1996.

John S. Seitz,

Director, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

[FR Doc. 96-23221 Filed 9-10-96; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5608-6]

Notice of Public Meetings on Drinking Water Issues

Notice is hereby given that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is holding a two-day public meeting on September 26 and 27, 1996, for the purpose of informal information exchange on issues related to the development of rules to address microbial contaminants and disinfectants/disinfection by-products in drinking water. Topics at the meeting will include: (1) a discussion of Microbial/Disinfection By-products (M/DBP) policy alternatives, and (2) a review of current and future health effects research for disinfectants/disinfection by-products. The meeting will be preceded by a one-day technical meeting on September 25, 1996, to discuss identification of data sub-sets to be developed from sample collection and analytical activities under the Information Collection Rule issued on May 14, 1996. These will be used to help support future M/DBP rule development.

EPA is inviting all interested members of the public to participate in these and subsequent information exchange meetings on microbial contaminants and disinfectants/disinfection by-products in drinking water. The September 26 and 27 meeting will be held at the Center for Environmental Dispute Resolution (RESOLVE), 2828 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D.C. A limited number of phone lines will be available for this meeting to enable attendance by teleconference. The technical meeting on September 25 will also be held in Washington D.C. at the Sheraton City Center Hotel, 1143 New Hampshire Avenue, Northwest. Because of

limitations on conference room seating, members of the public who are interested in attending on any of these days are requested to contact Elizabeth Corr of EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water at (202) 260-8907 prior to the day of the meeting.

Members of the public who wish to be notified of future meetings should also contact Elizabeth Corr.

Dated: September 6, 1996.

Cynthia C. Dougherty,

Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

[FR Doc. 96-23219 Filed 9-10-96; 8:45 am]

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[FRL-5607-9]

Extension of Comment Period for the Notice of Availability and Request for Comments on the Permit Improvement Team's Concept Paper on Environmental Permitting and Task Force Recommendations

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Agency) is extending the comment period for the Permit Improvement Team's Concept Paper on Environmental Permitting and Task Force Recommendations, which appeared in the Federal Register on July 19, 1996 (see 61 FR 37744). The public comment period was to end on September 3, 1996. The purpose of this notice is to extend the comment period an additional 30 days beyond that, to end on October 3, 1996. This extension of the comment period is provided to allow commenters an opportunity to comment further on the concept paper.

DATES: EPA will accept public comments on the concept paper and recommendations until October 3, 1996. Comments postmarked after the close of the comment period will be stamped "late."

ADDRESSES: The public must send an original and two copies to Docket Number F-96-PT2A-FFFFF, located at the RCRA Docket. The official address is: RCRA Information Center, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (5035W), 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Although the mailing address for the RCRA Information Center has not changed, the office was physically moved in November 1995. Therefore, hand-delivered comments should be taken to the new address: 1235 Jefferson Davis

Highway, First Floor, Arlington, Virginia. (Also see the section under "Supplementary Information" regarding the paperless office effort for submitting public comments.) The RCRA Information Center is open for public inspection and copying of supporting information from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays. The public must make an appointment to review docket materials by calling (703) 603-9230. The public may copy a maximum of 100 pages from any regulatory document at no cost. Additional copies cost \$0.15 per page.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lance Miller, PIT Executive Director at Permits Improvement Team, Mail Stop 100, 2890 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, NJ 08837, phone: (908) 321-6782.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Availability of Document

The PIT Concept Paper on Environmental Permitting and Task Force Recommendations can be obtained via the Internet at 'gopher://gopher.epa.gov' or 'http://www.epa.gov'. After reaching either of these Internet sites, locate the search function and type 'Permit Improvement Team' to locate the Concept Paper on Environmental Permitting and Task Force Recommendations.

Background Information

The PIT was established in July 1994 and is composed of representatives from EPA Headquarters and Regional offices and state, tribal and local permitting agencies. The PIT held numerous stakeholder meetings to solicit input on the most critical permitting issues as well as to obtain feedback on the PIT's initial recommendations. Although significant input on the PIT's recommendations has been received through the stakeholder meetings, a final opportunity to review and comment on the recommendations is being provided to ensure that all stakeholders have an opportunity to participate in the development of significant change in direction for permitting programs that is being contemplated. The Agency intends to use the concept paper on environmental permitting as an overall guide for reforms to permit programs, where appropriate. The individual recommendations contained in the document will be considered by program and regional offices as they develop specific plans in response to the concepts discussed in the PIT recommendations. These plans will include providing assistance to states