

contracts performed, technical information, and cost or pricing information or data. They will submit this information when the Agency announces a need for supplies or services which they are capable of providing. EPA will use this information to determine which firm's offer is most suited to the Agency's requirements. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR Part 9 and 48 CFR Chapter 15.

The EPA would like to solicit comments to:

(i) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) Evaluate the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

**Burden Statement:** The total annual burden for all respondents is estimated at 399,342 hours. The invitation for bids (IFB) component of this burden is estimated at 2,912 hours (364 bids  $\times$  8 hours per bid). The Request for Proposals (RFP) component is estimated at 396,430 hours (1,367 proposals  $\times$  290 hours per proposal). The total number of respondents and responses is estimated at 1,731 (364 bids + 1,367 proposals). The annual costs for all respondents is estimated at \$20,770,435. The IFB component of these costs is estimated at \$149,240 (364 bids  $\times$  \$410 per bid). The RFP component is estimated at \$20,621,195 (1,367 proposals  $\times$  \$15,085 per proposal).

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; to develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and

maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; to adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; to train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; to search data sources; to complete and review the collection of information; and to transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Dated: October 16, 1996.

Edward J. Murphy,

Chief, Procurement Policy Branch.

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#### [FRL-5639-7]

### EPA's Drinking Water Contaminant Identification Method

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Announcement of a stakeholder meeting on the drinking water contaminant identification method.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has scheduled a two-day public meeting on EPA's development of a Drinking Water Contaminant Identification Method. The purpose of this meeting is to have a dialogue with stakeholders and the public at large on the process for developing a sound and defensible method to identify contaminants for drinking water regulations, health advisories, toxicity research, and monitoring. The upcoming meeting is a continuation of a series of meetings with stakeholders that started in 1995 to obtain input on the Agency's Drinking Water Program. These meetings were initiated as part of the Drinking Water Program Redirection efforts to help refocus EPA's drinking water priorities and to take a risk-based approach in the allocation of program resources. Thus, the Agency seeks to ensure that the highest priority chemicals are targeted for public health protection. In recent months, EPA has been working on a Conceptual Approach for drinking water contaminant identification. At the upcoming meeting, EPA is seeking input from individual stakeholders with different perspectives on the process for the development and implementation of the Contaminant Identification Method and on the Conceptual Approach for contaminant identification. EPA encourages the full participation of stakeholders throughout this process.

**DATES:** The stakeholder meeting on the Drinking Water Contaminant Identification Method will be held on

December 2-3, 1996 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Resolve, Inc. (an EPA contractor) will provide logistical support for the stakeholders meeting. The meeting will be held in the greater Washington, D.C. area. Meeting registrants will be provided information on the location prior to the meeting. For additional information, please contact Ms. Lee Langstaff, at Resolve, Inc., at phone: (202) 965-6210 or fax: (202) 338-1264.

Members of the public wishing to attend the meeting may register by phone by contacting Ms. Langstaff by November 15, 1996. Those registered for the meeting will receive background materials prior to the meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general information about the meeting logistics, please contact Ms. Lee Langstaff at Resolve, Inc., 2828 Pennsylvania Avenue (Suite 402), N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007; (phone: 202-965-6210); (fax: 202-338-1264).

For other information on the Drinking Water Contaminant Identification Method, please contact Ms. Evelyn Washington, at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Phone: 202-260-3029, Fax: 202-260-3762.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### A. Background on the Drinking Water Contaminant Identification Method

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) amendments of 1986 required the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to publish a triennial list of contaminants ("Drinking Water Priority List" or DWPL) which may require regulation under the Act. In response to the 1986 amendments, EPA published two DWPLs which were to serve as "candidate contaminants" for regulation. The first DWPL was published on January 22, 1988 (53 FR 1892) and consisted of 53 contaminants/contaminant groups. A second DWPL was published on January 14, 1991 (56 FR 1470). The second list carried over most of the contaminants from the first list (50 substances) and added 27 new substances. The referenced Federal Register notices describe the sources of information used for the identification of contaminants for inclusion in the two Drinking Water Priority Lists.

The SDWA, as amended in 1996, continues to require EPA to publish a list of unregulated contaminants which are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems and which may require regulation under the Act. The 1996 amendments specify that EPA must publish the first list of contaminants for consideration not later

than 18 months after the date of enactment of the SDWA amendments of 1996 (i.e., by February, 1998) and additional lists every five years thereafter. The Act also requires EPA to select for further consideration and possible regulation those contaminants that present the greatest health concern. The list of contaminants involves consultation with the scientific community and comment from the public.

#### B. Request for Stakeholder Involvement

EPA began a series of stakeholder meetings in March of 1995 to obtain input on a number of issues related to the Agency's Drinking Water Program. Separate stakeholder meetings have been conducted to obtain input on priorities for the Drinking Water Program, scientific data needs, treatment technology, health assessment, analytical methods, source water protection, small systems capacity building, focusing and improving implementation, revising chemical monitoring requirements, defining source protection as a best available technology (BAT), and other revisions to strengthen enforcement and implementation. Input from those meetings helped the Agency in the development of a draft comprehensive redirection plan released for public comment on November 19, 1995 (USEPA. Drinking Water Program Redirection Proposal. A Public Comment Draft. EPA 810-D-95-001. Nov. 1995). Another stakeholder meeting was held on May 21, 1996 on the direction of the Drinking Water Health Advisory Program.

The upcoming meeting deals specifically with EPA's efforts to develop a risk-based method to identify contaminants for drinking water regulations, health advisories, additional toxicity research, and monitoring. EPA's goal is to develop a method that is able to identify those contaminants that may pose the greatest public health threat. The prioritization of contaminants for drinking water regulation (and for development of health advisories, research or monitoring efforts) would ensure that EPA uses its limited resources in an efficient manner. There is a more immediate need now to develop a risk-based drinking water Contaminant Identification Method since the 1996 amendments to the SDWA require EPA to publish the first list of contaminants for possible regulation by February, 1998.

EPA is working on a Conceptual Approach for the Contaminant Identification Method. This approach

considers factors such as potential adverse health effects, information on concentrations in drinking water supplies, human exposure via drinking water and other sources, and data uncertainty. Both chemical contaminants and microbes will be considered in the Contaminant Identification Method development process. Background materials on the Conceptual Approach, the process to develop and implement the Contaminant Identification Method, and the first listing of contaminants for consideration will be sent to all registered participants in advance of the meeting. The specific issues for discussion at the meeting will be based on those materials and will include (but may not be limited to) the following:

(1) Are the steps described in the Conceptual Approach for the Contaminant Identification Method the right ones? Is there anything missing?

(2) Is this model or Conceptual Approach workable/usable for microbial contaminants? Are any modifications necessary?

(3) To what extent should the 18 month process (i.e., the listing of the first group of contaminants for possible regulation) reflect this Conceptual Approach?

(4) What are the *sources* of information for "contaminants to be considered"? Are any sources missing? What weight or relative importance should be given to the sources?

(5) Should there be a relative weighting of different types of *data* for ranking decisions? How should EPA integrate the toxicity and occurrence data into a point system or weighting scheme for a risk-based approach?

(6) How should EPA evaluate the *quality* and *quantity* of available data (both occurrence and toxicity) to determine the contaminants to be considered for regulation?

(7) What degree of contamination represents a national priority (i.e., widespread public health threat versus local concern)?

(8) How do we resolve differences of opinion (i.e., differences on interpretation of the data) amongst knowledgeable persons?

(9) At what point and should cost/benefits be considered in the contaminant identification process?

(10) What process should EPA use to select the final list of contaminants?

(11) What contaminants should be added to the 1991 Drinking Water Priority List (DWPL) as part of the next list of contaminants for consideration due in early 1998? What contaminants should be deleted from the 1991 DWPL?

(12) How should the contaminant identification process influence the development and design of a drinking water contaminant occurrence database, also required under the Amendments?

EPA has convened this public meeting to hear the views of stakeholders on the Conceptual Approach, the process to develop and implement the Contaminant Identification Method, and the first list of contaminants for consideration. The public is invited to provide comments on the issues listed above or other issues related to the Drinking Water Contaminant Identification Method during the December 2-3, 1996 meeting.

Dated: October 18, 1996.

Cynthia Dougherty,  
Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

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[FRL-5639-6]

#### National Drinking Water Advisory Council; Notice of Open Meetings

Under Section 10(a)(2) of Public Law 92-423, "The Federal Advisory Committee Act," notice is hereby given that a meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. S300f *et seq.*), will be held on November 13, 1996, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:15 p.m. and on November 14, 1996, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the One Washington Circle Hotel, One Washington Circle, NW, Washington, D.C. 20037. The purpose is to brief the Council on the mandates under the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act and discuss the level of Council involvement to help implement them. The Council will be given an update on the Consumer Awareness Report, Drinking Water Needs Survey, Community Water Systems Survey and the draft implementation strategy for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

The meeting is open to the public. The Council encourages the hearing of outside statements and will allocate one hour on November 13, 1996, for this purpose. Oral statements will be limited to ten minutes, and it is preferred that only one person present the statement. Any outside parties interested in presenting an oral statement should petition the Council by telephone at (202) 260-2285 before November 12, 1996.

Any person who wishes to file a written statement can do so before or after a Council meeting. Written