

EPA's WIPP Compliance Criteria at 40 CFR 194.8, EPA will conduct an inspection of waste characterization systems and processes and an audit of the quality assurance program at NTS the week of June 7, 1999, to verify that these programs can properly control the characterization of transuranic waste at issue, consistent with the Compliance Criteria. This notice of the inspection and comment period accords with 40 CFR 194.8.

DATES: The EPA is requesting public comment on the Nevada Test Site documents as they apply to the scope of the inspection announced in this notice. Comments must be received by EPA's official Air Docket on or before June 14, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted to: Docket No. A-98-49, Air Docket, Room M-1500 (LE-131), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC, 20460.

The DOE documents (NTS TRU QAPjP, NTS Certification Plan, MCS TRU QAPjP, and TRUtech TRU QAPjP) are available for review in the official EPA Air Docket in Washington, D.C., Docket No. A-98-49, Category II-A-2, and at the following three EPA WIPP informational docket locations in New Mexico: in Carlsbad at the Municipal Library, Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10am-9pm, Friday-Saturday, 10am-6pm, and Sunday, 1pm-5pm; in Albuquerque at the Government Publications Department, Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico, Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8am-9pm, Friday, 8am-5pm, Saturday-Sunday, 1pm-5pm; and in Santa Fe at the Fogelson Library, College of Santa Fe, Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8am-12pm, Friday, 8am-5pm, Saturday, 9am-5pm, and Sunday, 1pm-9pm.

Copies of items in the docket may be requested by writing Docket A-98-49 at the address provided above, or by calling (202) 260-7548. As provided in EPA's regulations at 40 CFR Part 2, and in accordance with normal EPA docket procedures, a reasonable fee may be charged for photocopying.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Oliver, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, (202) 564-9732, or call EPA's 24-hour, toll-free WIPP Information Line, 1-800-331-WIPP, or visit our website at <http://www.epa.gov/radiation/wipp/announce.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: General background for this notice is identical to that provided in previous **Federal Register** notices. (See 64 FR 18870, 14418)

The Nevada Test Site (NTS) documents submitted by DOE to EPA

are: NTS TRU QAPjP, NTS Certification Plan, MCS TRU QAPjP, and TRUtech TRU QAPjP (see SUMMARY for full titles). The NTS TRU QAPjP, MCS TRU QAPjP, and TRUtech TRU QAPjP set forth the quality assurance program applied to TRU waste characterization at NTS. The NTS Certification Plan sets forth the waste characterization procedures for TRU wastes at NTS. After EPA reviews these documents, EPA will conduct an inspection of NTS the week of June 7, 1999, to determine whether the requirements set forth in these documents are being adequately implemented in accordance with Conditions 2 and 3 of the EPA's WIPP certification decision (Appendix A to 40 CFR Part 194). In accordance with § 194.8 of the WIPP compliance criteria, EPA is providing the public 30 days to comment on the documents placed in EPA's docket relevant to the site approval process.

If EPA determines that the provisions in the documents are adequately implemented, EPA will notify the DOE by letter and place the letter in the official Air Docket in Washington, D.C., and in the informational docket locations in New Mexico. A positive approval letter will allow DOE to ship TRU waste from NTS to the WIPP. The EPA will not make a determination of compliance prior to the inspection or before the 30-day comment period has closed.

Information on the EPA's radioactive waste disposal standards (40 CFR Part 191), the compliance criteria (40 CFR Part 194), and the EPA's certification decision is filed in the official EPA Air Docket, Dockets No. R-89-01, A-92-56, and A-93-02, respectively, and is available for review in Washington, D.C., and at the three EPA WIPP informational docket locations in New Mexico. The dockets in New Mexico contain only major items from the official Air Docket in Washington, D.C., plus those documents added to the official Air Docket after the October 1992 enactment of the WIPP LWA.

Dated: May 7, 1999.

Robert Perciasepe,

Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

49 CFR Part 611

[Docket No. 99-5474]

RIN 2132-AA63

Major Capital Investment Projects

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

ACTION: Proposed rule; notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: On April 7, 1999, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) describing the procedures that FTA proposes to use to evaluate and rate candidate projects for capital investment grants and loans for new fixed guideway systems and extensions to existing systems ("new starts") (64 FR 17062-71). The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) requires FTA to issue regulations covering the evaluation and rating of such projects. The docket for this NPRM is open for public comment until July 6, 1999; FTA invites public comment, and included a number of questions in the NPRM soliciting specific comment. In order to encourage public comment, FTA intends to host three workshops on the NPRM. This notice announces the dates, times, locations and procedures for those workshops.

DATES: The three workshops are scheduled as follows:

1. May 24, 1999, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (local time); Toronto, Ontario.
2. June 3, 1999, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (local time); San Francisco, CA.
3. June 8, 1999, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (local time); Washington, DC.

ADDRESSES: The Toronto, Ontario workshop will be held in the Essex Ballroom at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, 123 Queen St. West, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2M9, in conjunction with the 1999 APTA Commuter Rail/Rapid Transit Conference. The San Francisco, CA workshop will be held at: Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter Auditorium, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, California (adjacent to the Lake Merritt BART station). The Washington, DC workshop will be held at: U.S. Department of Transportation, room 3200-3204, 400 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20590. Written material submitted at the workshops will be placed in the rulemaking docket. Interpreters and alternative-format information are available upon request; requests should be made by May 17 for any of the workshops.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Day, Office of Policy Development, FTA, (202) 366-4060.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 7, 1999, FTA issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to carry out the requirements of Section 3009(e)(5) of TEA-21 (64 FR 17062-71). This statute directs FTA to issue regulations that define the process that FTA will use to evaluate candidate new starts under the criteria contained in 49 U.S.C. 5309. When issued, the Final Rule will set forth the approach FTA will use to evaluate candidate projects in terms of their justification and local financial commitment, as required under 49 U.S.C. 5309(e). Consistent with 49 U.S.C. 5309(e)(6), as amended by Section 3009(e) of TEA-21, these procedures will also be used to approve candidate projects for entry into preliminary engineering and final design. These procedures will also be used to evaluate projects in order to make recommendations for funding in the annual report to Congress required by 49 U.S.C. 5309(o)(1).

Notice of Meeting and Meeting Procedures

FTA believes that the public will benefit from an opportunity for dialog concerning the NPRM on evaluation of major capital investment projects, or new starts. Therefore, FTA is holding three public workshops, as follows: May 24, 1999; Toronto, Ontario, in conjunction with the 1999 APTA Commuter Rail/Rapid Transit Conference; June 3, 1999; San Francisco, CA; June 8, 1999; Washington, DC. Information gathered at the workshops will be included in the rulemaking docket and evaluated in conjunction with the development of the Final Rule. This notice establishes the general procedures set forth below to facilitate the workshops.

The workshops are intended to solicit public views and information on the proposed rule. Therefore, they will be conducted in an informal and nonadversarial manner.

The San Francisco, CA and Washington, DC workshops will last 3½ hours, beginning at 9:00 a.m.; the Toronto, Ontario workshop will last 3 hours, beginning at 2:00 p.m. The format will consist of an overview of the NPRM, including relevant background

information, by FTA officials. A general question-and-answer session will follow.

Seating will be limited by available room size and will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis, with some seats reserved as necessary for speakers, interpreters and persons requiring their services, and others requiring specific accommodations. For those who cannot attend, a tape recording, transcript, or other record of the workshops will be available in the rulemaking docket after the workshops.

We will try to accommodate all attendees who wish to speak during the question-and-answer period. Speakers will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis; however, FTA reserves the right to exclude some speakers or limit their time in order to provide equal opportunity to all who wish to speak.

All statements and materials received at the workshop will become part of the rulemaking docket.

Issued: May 7, 1999.

Gordon J. Linton,
Administrator.

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