

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7831-4]

Eighth Meeting of the World Trade Center Expert Technical Review Panel To Continue Evaluation on Issues Relating to Impacts of the Collapse of the World Trade Center Towers

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The World Trade Center Expert Technical Review Panel (or WTC Expert Panel) will hold its eighth meeting intended to provide for greater input on ongoing efforts to monitor the situation for New York residents and workers impacted by the collapse of the World Trade Center (WTC). The panel members will help guide the EPA's use of the available exposure and health surveillance databases and registries to characterize any remaining exposures and risks, identify unmet public health needs, and recommend any steps to further minimize the risks associated with the aftermath of the WTC attacks. The panel will meet several times over the course of approximately two years. These panel meetings will be open to the public, except where the public interest requires otherwise. Information on the panel meeting agendas, documents (except where the public interest requires otherwise), and public registration to attend the meetings will be available from an Internet Web site. EPA has established an official public docket for this action under Docket ID No. ORD-2004-0003.

DATES: The eighth meeting of the WTC Expert Panel will be held on November 15, 2004, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., eastern standard time. On-site registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The WTC Expert Panel meeting will be held at St. John's University, Saval Auditorium, 101 Murray Street (between Greenwich Street and West Side Highway), New York City (Manhattan). The auditorium is located on the second floor of the building and is handicap accessible. A government-issued identification (*e.g.*, driver's license) is required for entry.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For meeting information, registration and logistics, please see the panel's Web site <http://www.epa.gov/wtc/panel> or contact ERG at (781) 674-7374. The meeting agenda and logistical information will be posted on the Web site and will also be available in hard copy. For further information regarding the WTC Expert Panel, contact Ms. Lisa

Matthews, EPA Office of the Science Advisor, telephone (202) 564-6669 or e-mail: matthews.lisa@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. WTC Expert Panel Meeting Information

Eastern Research Group, Inc., (ERG), an EPA contractor, will coordinate the WTC Expert Panel meeting. To attend the panel meeting as an observer, please register by visiting the Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/wtc/panel>. You may also register for the meeting by calling ERG's conference registration line between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. EST at (781) 674-7374 or toll free at 1-800-803-2833, or by faxing a registration request to (781) 674-2906 (include full address and contact information). Pre-registration is strongly recommended as space is limited, and registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline for pre-registration is November 10, 2004. Registrations will continue to be accepted after this date, including on-site registration, if space allows. There will be a limited time at the meeting for oral comments from the public. Oral comments will be limited to five (5) minutes each. If you wish to make a statement during the observer comment period, please check the appropriate box when you register at the web site. Please bring a copy of your comments to the meeting for the record or submit them electronically via e-mail to meetings@erg.com, subject line: WTC.

II. Background Information

Immediately following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on New York City's World Trade Center, many federal agencies, including the EPA, were called upon to focus their technical and scientific expertise on the national emergency. EPA, other federal agencies, New York City and New York State public health and environmental authorities focused on numerous cleanup, dust collection and ambient air monitoring activities to ameliorate and better understand the human health impacts of the disaster. Detailed information concerning the environmental monitoring activities that were conducted as part of this response is available at the EPA Response to 9-11 Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/wtc/>.

In addition to environmental monitoring, EPA efforts also included toxicity testing of the dust, as well as the development of a human exposure and health risk assessment. This risk assessment document, Exposure and Human Health Evaluation of Airborne Pollution from the World Trade Center

Disaster, is available on the Web at www.epa.gov/ncea/wtc.htm. Numerous additional studies by other Federal and State agencies, universities and other organizations have documented impacts to both the outdoor and indoor environments and to human health.

While these monitoring and assessment activities were ongoing and the cleanup at Ground Zero itself was occurring, EPA began planning for a program to clean and monitor residential apartments. From June until December 2002, residents impacted by WTC dust and debris in an area of about 1 mile by 1 mile south of Canal Street were eligible to request either federally-funded cleaning and monitoring for airborne asbestos or monitoring of their residences. The cleanup continued into the summer of 2003 by which time the EPA had cleaned and monitored 3,400 apartments and monitored 800 apartments. Detailed information on this portion of the EPA response is also available at <http://www.epa.gov/wtc/>.

A critical component of understanding long-term human health impacts is the establishment of health registries. The WTC Health Registry is a comprehensive and confidential health survey of those most directly exposed to the contamination resulting from the collapse of the WTC towers. It is intended to give health professionals a better picture of the health consequences of 9/11. It was established by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDOHMH) in cooperation with a number of academic institutions, public agencies and community groups. Detailed information about the registry can be obtained from the registry Web site at: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/wtc/index.html>.

In order to obtain individual advice on the effectiveness of these programs, unmet needs and data gaps, the EPA has convened a technical panel of experts who have been involved with WTC assessment activities. Dr. Paul Gilman, EPA Science Advisor, serves as Chair of the panel, and Dr. Paul Liroy, Professor of Environmental and Community Medicine at the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School-UMDNJ and Rutgers University, serves as Vice Chair. A full list of the panel members, a charge statement and operating principles for the panel are available from the panel Web site listed above. Panel meetings typically will be one- or two-day meetings, and they will occur over the course of approximately a two-year period. Panel members will

provide individual advice on issues the panel addresses. These meetings will occur in New York City and nearby locations. All of the meetings will be announced on the Web site and by a **Federal Register** Notice, and they will be open to the public for attendance and brief oral comments.

The focus of the eighth meeting of the WTC Expert Panel is to hear comments from panel members and the public on the External Review Draft entitled, Draft Proposed Sampling Program to Determine Extent of World Trade Center Impacts to the Indoor Environment (EPA/600/R-04/169A). The document was published in the **Federal Register** on October 21, 2004 (69 FR 61838) for a 30-day public comment period. The document is also available on the panel Web site identified earlier at: <http://www.epa.gov/wtc/panel>. Written comments on the draft sampling proposal should be submitted to the EPA by November 19, 2004. Please follow the detailed instructions as provided in the October 21, 2004 **Federal Register** Notice for submitting written comments. EPA will consider all comments in revising the document. At the November 15 panel meeting, panel members will be asked to provide their individual views regarding gaps on potential health effects and additional health studies that they have identified. Further information on meetings of the WTC Expert Panel can be found at the panel Web site.

III. How To Get Information on E-DOCKET

EPA has established an official public docket for this action under Docket ID No. ORD-2004-0003. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to this action. Although a part of the official docket, the public docket does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the Office of Environmental Information (OEI) Docket in the Headquarters EPA Docket Center, (EPA/DC) EPA West Building, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the OEI Docket is (202) 566-1752; facsimile: (202) 566-1753; or e-mail: ORD.Docket@epa.gov.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket identification number.

Dated: October 25, 2004.

Paul Gilman,

EPA Science Advisor and Assistant Administrator for Research and Development.
[FR Doc. 04-24245 Filed 10-28-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7829-1]

Proposed Administrative Settlement Pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA"); Pacific Sound Resources (PSR); West Seattle, WA

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Request for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. 9601, *et seq.*, as amended, notice is hereby given that the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources ("DNR") and the state of Washington ("State") have negotiated a proposed Administrative Settlement ("Agreement") pursuant to CERCLA, with respect to the Pacific Sound Resources ("PSR") Superfund Site in West Seattle, Washington ("Site").

The Site was listed on the Superfund National Priorities List ("NPL") in 1994. Wood treating operations at the Site date from the early 1900s to 1994, under successive operators. Hazardous substances, primarily wood treating chemicals, were released at or from the Site. As a result, EPA has undertaken response actions under CERCLA, and will undertake response actions in the future, many of which have been or will be funded by PSR as a responsible party pursuant to a 1994 PSR Consent Decree. Outstanding EPA costs are approximately \$3.5 million. Projected future remedial costs are estimated at

approximately \$8 million for remaining sediment remedial action, some or all of which may be funded by the PSR Decree. EPA estimates that the total response costs incurred and to be incurred at or in connection with the is approximately \$45 million.

The Settling Parties' liability for the Site arises in most significant part from releases from three storage tanks on a small portion of the Site (approximately 2.3 acres of filled state-owned aquatic lands within the approximately 25-acre Site) leased to PSR by DNR. EPA has determined that these releases contributed a minor portion of the total of hazardous substances at the Site. The processing areas of the Site, including the transfer table pit and wood-treating retorts, were and are on PSR property and were where most releases occurred. DNR also leased submerged aquatic lands owned by the State to PSR on which PSR floated treated wood products which released comparatively small amounts of hazardous substances to water and sediment in Elliott Bay.

In September 2002, PSR and the Port of Seattle jointly sued the Settling Parties and other potentially responsible parties in contribution in the Superior Court for the State of Washington under the Model Toxics Control Act ("MTCA"), RCW 70.105D *et seq.* In May 2004, the Settling Parties conditionally agreed to settle these MTCA claims for \$4.75 million to be divided equally between the MTCA Plaintiffs. EPA stands as the sole beneficiary pursuant to the PSR Consent Decree of the settlement proceeds which would go to PSR. This MTCA claims settlement is conditioned on this proposed Agreement resolving the outstanding CERCLA claims by EPA against the Settling Parties.

By this proposed Agreement, Settling Parties shall provide EPA with a maximum of 250,000 cubic yards of clean sediment (from navigation dredging of the Snohomish, Swinomish, or other rivers of the state of Washington) necessary for the sediment remedial action at the Site. Further, EPA has designed the sediment remedy for the Site to meet a 100-year earthquake or other disaster contingency, and has agreed that if such remedy failure occurs, it will be addressed by EPA rather than by an Agency or instrumentality of the state. Toward this end, DNR shall also provide such quantity of clean sediment as EPA may require, not to exceed a maximum of 250,000 cubic yards, to address such a remedy failure contingency, subject to sediment availability. Settling Parties also agree that EPA may install, maintain and monitor the remedial