

options before deciding in early 1995 to defer the regulation in order to better characterize health effects.

On August 6, 1996, Congress amended the SDWA, adding section 1412(b)(12)(A) which requires, in part, that EPA propose a NPDWR for arsenic by January 1, 2000 and issue a final regulation by January 1, 2001. The current maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 50 ug/L remains in effect until the effective date of the revised rule.

The 1996 amendments to the SDWA also directed EPA to develop by February, 1997, a comprehensive arsenic research plan to assess health risks associated with exposure to low levels of arsenic. In December 1996, EPA announced the availability of the arsenic research plan, and the public had an opportunity to comment on the paper at a scientific peer review meeting in January, 1997. EPA reported to Congress in late January that the plan was publicly available and would be revised after consideration of the final report of the scientific peer review group, which was subsequently published May 8, 1997. In conducting the studies in the arsenic research plan, EPA will consult with the National Academy of Sciences, other Federal agencies, and other interested public and private parties.

B. Request for Stakeholder Involvement

EPA intends for the proposed NPDWR for arsenic to incorporate the best available science, risk assessment, treatment technologies, occurrence data, cost/benefit analyses, and stakeholder input on technical and implementation issues.

The stakeholders meeting will cover a broad range of issues including: (1) Regulatory process; (2) arsenic risk assessment (exposure, health assessment, national occurrence); (3) key technical assessments (treatment technologies, treatment residuals, cost, analytical methods); (4) small system concerns; and (5) future stakeholder involvement. Background materials on arsenic in drinking water issues will be sent to all registered participants in advance of the meeting.

EPA has announced this public meeting to hear the views of stakeholders on EPA's plans for activities to develop a NPDWR for arsenic. The public is invited to provide comments on the issues listed above and other issues related to the arsenic in drinking water regulation during the September 11 and 12, 1997 meeting or in writing by October 10, 1997.

Dated: July 30, 1997.

Elizabeth Fellows,

Acting Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, Environmental Protection Agency.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5868-8]

National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology—Total Maximum Daily Load Committee: Public Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, PL 92-463, EPA gives notice of a three day meeting of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology's (NACEPT) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Committee. NACEPT provides advice and recommendations to the Administrator of EPA on a broad range of environmental policy issues. The TMDL Committee has been charged to provide recommendations for actions which will lead to a substantially more effective TMDL program. This meeting is being held to enable the Committee and EPA to hear the views and obtain the advice of a widely diverse group of stakeholders in the National Water Program.

In conjunction with the three day meeting, the FACA Committee members and the EPA will host two meetings designed to afford the general public greater opportunity to express its views on TMDL and water related issues.

DATES: The three day public meeting will be held on September 3-5, 1997, in Portland, Oregon, at the Fifth Avenue Suites, 506 S.W. Washington at Fifth Avenue. The full Committee meeting begins on Wednesday, September 3, 1997, at 7:30 a.m. with adjournment scheduled for 5:30 p.m.. The meeting on Thursday, September 4, 1997, will reconvene at 7:30 a.m. and is scheduled to adjourn at 3:00 p.m. On Friday, September 5, 1997, the Committee begins deliberations at 7:30 a.m. and is scheduled to conclude at 4:00 p.m.

The two public input sessions are scheduled in conjunction with the full Committee meeting in the same location. The first will occur on September 3, 1997, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. The second will occur on September 4, 1997, from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

FUTURE MEETING DATES: The Committee has scheduled one more meeting: January 21-23, 1998 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

ADDRESSES: Materials or written comments may be transmitted to the Committee through Corinne S. Wellish, Designated Federal Officer, NACEPT/TMDL, U.S. EPA, Office of Water, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, Assessment and Watershed Protection Division (4503F), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Corinne S. Wellish, Designated Federal Officer for the Total Maximum Daily Load Committee at 202-260-0740.

Dated: July 28, 1997.

Corinne S. Wellish,

Designated Federal Officer

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5869-1]

Announcement of Stakeholders Meeting on National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for Radon-222

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of stakeholders meeting.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be holding a one-day public meeting on Tuesday, September 2, 1997, in San Francisco, CA. The purpose of this meeting is to present information on EPA's plans for activities to develop a proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for radon-222, and solicit public input on major technical and implementation issues, and on preferred approaches for continued public involvement. This upcoming meeting is the second of a series of stakeholders meetings on the NPDWR for radon. These meetings were initiated as part of the Drinking Water Program Redirection efforts to help refocus EPA's drinking water priorities and to support strong, flexible partnerships among EPA, States, local governments, and the public. At the upcoming meeting, EPA is seeking input from state drinking water and radon programs, the regulated community (public water systems), public health and safety organizations, environmental and public interest groups, and other stakeholders on a number of issues related to developing the NPDWR for radon. EPA encourages the full participation of stakeholders throughout this process.

DATES: The stakeholder meeting on the NPDWR for radon will be held on Tuesday, September 2, 1997 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PST. Check-in will begin at 9:00 a.m.

ADDRESSES: To register for the meeting, please contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. Those registered for the meeting by August 22, 1997 will receive an agenda and background materials prior to the meeting. Members of the public who cannot participate may submit comments in writing by September 16, 1997 to Sylvia Malm, at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M. St., SW (4607), Washington, DC 20460. The meeting will be held at the Environmental Protection Agency Region IX Office Building in Meeting Room C, second floor, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on meeting logistics, please contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. For information on the activities related to developing the NPDWR for radon and other EPA activities under the Safe Drinking Water Act, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. For information on radon in indoor air, contact the National Safety Council's National Radon Hotline at 1-800-SOS-RADON.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

On July 18, 1991 (56 FR 33050), EPA proposed a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) and National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for radon and other radionuclides in public water supplies. EPA proposed to regulate radon at 300 pCi/L. Commenters on the 1991 proposed NPDWR for radon raised several concerns, including cost of implementation, especially for small systems, and the larger risk to public health from radon in indoor air from soil under buildings.

On August 6, 1996, Congress passed amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), which establishes a new charter for the nation's public water systems, States, and EPA in protecting the safety of drinking water. The amendments [§ 1412(b)(13)] direct EPA to develop an MCLG and NPDWR for radon. EPA is required to (1) withdraw the 1991 proposed MCLG and NPDWR for radon-222; (2) arrange for the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct an independent risk assessment for radon in drinking water and an independent assessment of risk reduction benefits from various

mitigation measures to reduce radon in indoor air; (3) publish a radon health risk reduction and cost analysis for possible radon Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for public comment by February, 1999; (4) propose an MCLG and NPDWR for radon by August, 1999; and (5) publish a final MCLG and NPDWR for radon by August, 2000.

If the MCL is "more stringent than necessary to reduce the contribution to radon in indoor air from drinking water to a concentration that is equivalent to the national average concentration of radon in outdoor air," EPA is also required to promulgate an alternative MCL and publish guidelines for state multimedia mitigation programs to mitigate radon levels in indoor air. The alternative MCL would "result in a contribution of radon from drinking water to radon levels in indoor air equivalent to the national average concentration of radon in outdoor air." States may develop and submit to EPA for approval a multimedia mitigation program to mitigate radon levels in indoor air. EPA shall approve State multimedia mitigation programs if they are expected to achieve equivalent or greater health risk reduction benefits than compliance with the MCL. If EPA approves a State multimedia mitigation program, public water supply systems within the State may comply with the alternative MCL. If EPA does not approve a State program, or the State does not propose a program, public water supply systems may propose multimedia mitigation programs to EPA, under the same procedures outlined for States.

B. Request for Stakeholder Involvement

EPA intends for the proposed NPDWR for radon to incorporate the best available science, treatment technologies, occurrence data, cost/benefit analyses, and stakeholder input on technical and implementation issues. EPA has evaluated comments on the 1991 proposed NPDWR for radon and will be considering those comments in developing the regulation.

The meeting will cover a broad range of issues including: (1) Radon in drinking water MCL development (treatment technologies, occurrence, analytical methods); (2) multimedia mitigation program; and (3) stakeholder involvement processes. Background materials on radon in drinking water issues will be sent to all registered participants in advance of the meeting. Issues for discussion and stakeholder input will be based on the materials provided and include (but may not be limited to) the following:

(1) Any new information or data;

(2) Issues and concerns related to rule development;

(3) Issues and concerns related to implementing a multimedia mitigation program from the perspective of your state, water systems, public health and safety organizations, environmental and public interest groups, and the public; and

(4) Recommendations on the most beneficial points in the process for stakeholder input and preferred approaches for stakeholder input.

EPA has announced this public meeting to hear the views of stakeholders on EPA's plans for activities to develop a NPDWR for radon. The public is invited to provide comments on the issues listed above and other issues related to the radon in drinking water regulation during the September 2, 1997 meeting or in writing by September 16, 1997. EPA is in the process of planning another stakeholders meeting in the New England region in the Fall of 1997.

Dated: July 30, 1997.

Elizabeth Fellows,

Acting Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, Environmental Protection Agency.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5868-9]

Notice of Meeting, Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) Subcommittee Review of National Risk Management Research Laboratory (NRMRL)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C., App. 2), notice is hereby given that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Research and Development (ORD), Board of Scientific Counselors Subcommittee will meet to review the National Risk Management Research Laboratory, August 18-19, 1997, at the Andrew W. Breidenbach Environmental Research Center, 26 W. Martin Luther King Drive, Room 120-126 and will start at 8:00 a.m. and recess at 5:00 p.m. on August 18, 1997. On August 19, 1997, a writing session will start at 8:00 a.m. and adjourn at 1:00 p.m. All times are eastern time. The meeting is open to the public. Any member of the public wishing to make comments at the meeting should contact Shirley Hamilton, Designated Federal