

Showcase Communities, using the detailed criteria listed below.

1. *Brownfields Potential*: Describe the brownfields that exist, or are perceived to exist, in the community and that have reasonable potential for environmental restoration and economic reuse in the near-term.

2. *Community Need*: Describe how this is an area which has social and economic conditions which would benefit from Federal assistance for brownfields cleanup and redevelopment.

3. *Local Commitment*: Describe the degree of local commitment to brownfields cleanup and redevelopment including existing community efforts and investment of community resources.

4. *Federal, State, and Local Partnerships*: Describe the Federal, State, and local agencies and organizations participating in the community's brownfields activities, including other programs and funds available for brownfields activities.

5. *Strategic Planning*: Describe the extent to which the brownfields strategy is part of a larger redevelopment strategy that will link brownfields cleanup to economic redevelopment strategies, job creation, increased environmental protection, and sustainability.

6. *Management Capability*: Describe prior experience or knowledge in managing similar redevelopment, cleanup, and community participation activities. Also describe what specific planning and programmatic requirements have been met for Federal financing programs anticipated for use.

7. *Environmental Justice*: Describe the extent to which low-income, minority, and other disadvantaged communities will participate in the development of community brownfields redevelopment plans.

8. *National Replicability*: Describe how the community will serve as a model for other similarly situated communities in addressing brownfields redevelopment.

Communities that are invited to submit Phase II proposals should respond directly to these criteria in their proposals. Further application requirements and guidelines will be provided to the candidate communities to assist them in preparing their application. Note that in Phase I (the initial Statement of Interest) of the selection process, interested communities should consider the detailed criteria, but do not have to respond to each criterion.

DATES: Submit Statements of Interest on or before September 19, 1997. All

proposals must be postmarked or sent to EPA via registered or tracked mail by the deadline cited above.

ADDRESSES: Address Statements of Interest to Gayle Rice or Sven-Erik Kaiser, U.S. EPA (5101), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gayle Rice, 202-260-8431 or Sven-Erik Kaiser, 202-260-5138.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Additional information, if any, will be updated on the Internet Worldwide Web at the Universal Resource Location address of "http://www.epa.gov/brownfields." Persons lacking Internet access can communicate with the contact persons listed above.

Dated: August 14, 1997.

Timothy Fields, Jr.,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5878-2]

Determination of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's Compliance With Applicable Federal Environmental Laws for the Period October 1994-1996

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that, for the period October 1994 to October 1996, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), which is operated by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), was in compliance with the pertinent Federal statutes and regulations designated in section 9(a)(1) of the 1992 Land Withdrawal Act, as amended. The Secretary of Energy was notified of the determination via letter from EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner dated August 14, 1997.

This determination was made under the authority of Section 9 of the amended WIPP Land Withdrawal Act. (Pub. L. Nos. 102-579 and 104-201.) Section 9 requires the Administrator of EPA to determine on a biennial basis, following the submittal of documentation of compliance by the Secretary of DOE, whether the WIPP is in compliance with EPA's standards for the management and storage of radioactive waste (40 CFR part 191, subpart A), the Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, the

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, and all other applicable Federal laws protecting public health and safety or the environment. This determination applies to WIPP's compliance with these laws during the period October 1994 to October 1996.

This determination is not directly related to, nor is it a part of, EPA's certification decision regarding whether the WIPP complies with the disposal standards for transuranic radioactive waste (40 CFR part 191). The certification decision will be accomplished through a separate rulemaking pursuant to the standards and procedures mandated by section 553 of the Administrative Procedure Act, and in accordance with EPA's WIPP compliance certification criteria regulations at 40 CFR part 194. (61 FR 58499, November 15, 1996.)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Monroe; telephone number: 202-233-9310; address: Radiation Protection Division, Mail Code 6602J, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460.

Dated: August 14, 1997.

Carol M. Browner,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-22072 Filed 8-19-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5878-3]

Determination of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's Compliance With Applicable Federal Environmental Laws for the Period October 1992-1994

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that, for the period October 1992 to October 1994, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), which is operated by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), was in compliance with the Federal statutes and regulations designated in subparagraphs (A), (B), (D), (E), (F), and, in pertinent part, (H) of Section 9(a)(1) of the 1992 Land Withdrawal Act (LWA), as amended. To the extent that DOE has not provided EPA with documentation attesting to compliance with DOE orders, notices, and directives pertaining to public health, safety, and the environment for that period, EPA cannot determine DOE's compliance with respect to Section 9(a)(1)(G) and, in