

robust accounting systems that track environmental costs and benefits thereby providing information necessary for the organization to achieve greater economic efficiencies and improved environmental performance. Are there additional opportunities to accelerate the adoption of these new practices in related areas such as capital budgeting, design, materials management, underwriting, and finance?

Dated: March 11, 1999.

**Jay Benforado,**

*Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Reinvention.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6311-6]

### Notice of Oxygenate Use in Gasoline Panel Meeting

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** On November 30, 1998, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol M. Browner announced the creation of a blue-ribbon panel of leading experts from the public health and scientific communities, automotive fuels industry, water utilities, and local and State government to review the important issues posed by the use of MTBE and other oxygenates in gasoline. EPA created the panel to gain a better understanding of the public health concerns raised by the discovery of MTBE in some water supplies. The panel will be chaired by Mr. Daniel Greenbaum, President of the Health Effects Institute (HEI) of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Mr. Robert Perciasepe, Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, US EPA.

This notice announces the time and place for the third meeting of the panel.

**DATES:** The blue-ribbon panel reviewing the use of oxygenates in gasoline will conduct its third meeting on Thursday and Friday, March 25 and 26, 1999, in Sacramento, CA beginning at 8:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to possibly 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 25th and from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. on Friday, March 26th at the Sacramento Convention Center, 1030 15th Street, Room 202, Sacramento, CA.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karen Smith at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Air and Radiation, 401 M Street, SW (6406J),

Washington, D.C. 20460, (202) 564-9674, or John Brophy at (202) 564-9068. Information can also be found at [www.epa.gov/oms/consumer/fuels/oxypanel/blueribbon.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oms/consumer/fuels/oxypanel/blueribbon.htm).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This is the third in a series of meetings at locations around the country to hear from regional and national experts on the facts concerning oxygenate use in fuel. While in Sacramento, the panel will focus on understanding oxygenate and water issues in California. A number of presenters have been invited to offer a variety of perspectives regarding oxygenate issues. The panel will also be accepting written public comment submissions. Written submissions can be mailed to US EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Mail Code 6406J (Attn: Blue-Ribbon Panel), Washington, DC 20460. Panel members will be provided with copies of all written submissions.

Dated: March 12, 1999.

**Margo T. Oge,**

*Director, Office of Mobile Sources.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6311-1]

### Science Advisory Board; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meetings

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that two Committees of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) will meet on the dates and times described below. All times noted are Eastern Time. All meetings are open to the public, however, seating is limited and available on a first come basis. Documents that are the subject of SAB reviews are normally available from the originating U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office and are *not* available from the SAB Office. Public drafts of SAB reports are available to the Agency and the public from the SAB office. Details on availability are noted below.

#### 1. Ecological Processes and Effects Committee

The Ecological Processes and Effects Committee (EPEC) of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) will hold a public meeting on April 6-7, 1999 in Washington, DC. The meeting will be held in Room 1103 West Tower of the EPA Waterside Mall Complex, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, beginning at 8:30 am and ending no

later than 5:30 pm on each day. The purpose of the meeting is to offer advice to the Agency on the following topics: (a) review of a proposed methodology for establishing sediment guidelines for metals mixtures; (b) review of a Biotic Ligand Model (BLM) for establishing aquatic life criteria for metals; and (c) review of a proposed approach for setting Ecological Soil Screening Levels (Eco-SSLs) for use at Superfund sites.

*Background (a) Bioavailability and Toxicity of Metals in Surface Waters and Sediments:* The Office of Water and the Office of Research and Development have been working over the past several years to refine Agency approaches to developing criteria and guidance for metals levels that are protective of benthic organisms, aquatic life in the water column, and wildlife that consume aquatic organisms. A focus of this recent work has been on improving the understanding of factors that influence metals bioavailability, and thus toxicity, in the environment. The Office of Water is asking the SAB to review its integrated approach to assessing bioavailability and toxicity of metals in surface waters and sediments by evaluating proposed modifications to the approaches used to develop sediment metals guidelines and aquatic life criteria for metals. The Charge to the Committee is as follows:

#### *Overall Charge*

Does the integrated metals methodology improve our ability to make both protective and predictive assessments of toxicity due to copper, silver and other selected metals in the water column and sediment?

#### *Biotic Ligand Model Questions:*

(1) Does the BLM improve our ability to predict toxicity to water column organisms due to metals (copper and silver) in comparison to the currently applied dissolved metal concentration criterion?

(2) Is the scientific and theoretical foundation of the model sound?

(3) In comparison to the current Water Effects Ration (WER) adjustment for aquatic life criteria, will the application of the BLM as a site-specific adjustment reduce uncertainty associated with metals bioavailability and toxicity?

(4) Are the data presented for the validation of the BLM sufficient to support the incorporation of the BLM directly into copper and silver criteria documents?

#### *Equilibrium Sediment Guidelines for Metals Mixtures Questions*

(1) By incorporating the fraction organic carbon into the bioavailability