

Contacts

Additional general and technical information on this solicitation and the grants program may be obtained by contacting: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Exploratory Research (8703), 401 M Street SW., Washington, DC 20460, Phone: (202) 260-7474/Fax: (202) 260-0211.

Dated: February 16, 1995.

Joseph K. Alexander,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Research & Development.

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[FRL-5161-7]

Notice of Public Meetings on Drinking Water Issues

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is holding public meetings related to the Agency's drinking water program over the next several months. Descriptions of the subject areas for the meetings are provided below, along with initial meeting dates, times and locations. Names and phone numbers of EPA contact persons are also provided. Additional information about a particular subject area, as well as dates of additional meetings, may be obtained by calling the EPA contact person listed for that subject area.

The purpose of the meetings is to provide EPA with ideas, suggestions and options either for proceeding with specific activities related to the drinking water program or which can serve as the basis for strategic decisions on program directions and resource allocations. The intent is to provide EPA with the full array of viewpoints, ideas and concerns which are held by its multiplicity of stakeholders. Summaries of the ideas and suggestions from the public meetings will be provided to EPA senior managers in the drinking water program for further consideration.

Some of the meetings will focus on how to carry out specific activities which the agency perceives as ripe for action and which can be undertaken within EPA's existing resource constraints. Others will be used to seek broad input on options for prioritizing among other possible activities within a subject area, including suggestions for other ways to do business. In some cases, these two approaches will be combined in a single meeting.

For some of the eight subject areas, only one or two public meetings may prove necessary. For others, such meetings may take place more frequently over a period of several

months. Most of the meetings will be in Washington, D.C. Because EPA will not be able to fund travel for any participants, all meetings will be teleconferenced to enable participation by persons in other locales.

Where the Agency has chosen to proceed with a specific activity, such as revising the State Programs Priorities Guidance for the Public Water Systems Supervisory Program, we will also solicit participation in stakeholder forums in order to enable us to receive additional feedback. These forums will include the array of stakeholder interests. Members of the public may attend and observe the forums. As with the public meetings, the purpose of the forums will be to provide EPA with individual stakeholder views rather than to seek an opinion from the group as a whole.

Where EPA is seeking to prioritize among possible activities, the Agency will convene a senior EPA management group to review the public meeting summaries. That group will assemble the information and develop a program action plan consistent with available resources. The plan will be submitted to the National Drinking Water Advisory Council for its comment. Final decisions on priorities will be made by Assistant Administrator Robert Perciasepe. EPA will continue to seek further stakeholder input on how to proceed after priority activities have been determined.

Alternatively or in addition to attending any particular meeting, members of the public may submit written comments to the EPA contact person for up to fifteen days after the meeting. General questions about the meeting process should be directed to Charlene Shaw with EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water at (202) 260-2285.

Subject Areas and Initial Meeting Schedules

Regulatory Reassessment

EPA will hold a public meeting on regulatory reassessment on March 13, 1995, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the St. James Hotel, 950 24th Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20037. Meetings under this subject area will provide EPA with stakeholder input on priorities for regulating drinking water contaminants. There is a wide variability among the regulations in terms of the relative risk reductions they will produce. Also, EPA does not believe it has the resources to continue working on all regulations currently required in a timely and high quality fashion.

In addition to discussing regulation priorities, meeting participants may also

suggest criteria for prioritizing rulemaking efforts. EPA will consider comments provided by participants in developing a prioritized list of regulatory activities. The priority list will be used to identify which regulations can be developed in the near term and which are appropriate for a much longer time frame for development. With this information, EPA hopes to renegotiate current court-ordered schedules and more effectively direct federal, State and local resources. EPA Contact: Jan Auerbach, (202) 260-5274.

Scientific Data Needs

EPA will hold a public meeting on scientific data needs on March 30, 1995, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the EPA Auditorium, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Up to date information and quality models and methodologies are essential to sound regulatory and programmatic decision-making. They form the foundation for the more visible Agency actions and products. Since data collection and analysis is resource and time intensive, some trade-offs are inevitable. EPA will seek input regarding identification of the most critical needs. Meetings under this subject area would also seek input on other factors which may merit consideration.

This subject area encompasses a wide range of questions, including the following. Within the context of statutory goals and timetables, what types of data should be assembled and considered in chemical assessment? What levels of monitoring data are required at all stages of the contaminant evaluation process, from selection to actual regulatory decisions? What are the other key data needs with respect to regulatory impact assessment? What should the balance be between investing in more sophisticated cost estimate models versus reducing uncertainty in other areas such as health assessment? Within the context of statutory guidelines and available public and private resources, do interested parties believe surrogate indicators (such as volumes of pesticides used) are adequate for contaminant selection for Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) development, or should public water supply monitoring and federal reporting of those data precede MCL development? Beyond contaminant selection, cost and benefit assessments will be discussed.

This subject area also includes discussion of data needs related to source water protection, including drinking water occurrence, locational and well characteristic data which

would help guide development of prevention programs. Such data would assist in developing prevention programs tailored to local conditions and would enable local, State and federal agencies to more effectively target their activities to prevent pollution of drinking water. EPA Contact: Ben Smith, (202) 260-3026.

Treatment Technology

EPA will hold a public meeting to discuss treatment technology on March 7, 1995, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Capitol, 550 C Street SW., Washington, D.C. 20024. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) treatment technology is important in the establishment of National Primary Drinking Water Standards and determining when allowable flexibility in the form of variances and exemptions is appropriate. EPA is considering ways to improve treatment technology determinations and associated issues. The Agency will seek input on critical issues, including criteria for determining best available technologies and treatment technique requirements; ways for EPA to promote the development and applications of innovative technologies; and the need for toxicological evaluation and certification of treatment chemical and system component safety. EPA Contact: Steve Clark, (202) 260-7575.

Health Assessment

EPA will hold a public meeting on health assessment on March 14, 1995, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Capitol, 550 C Street SW., Washington, D.C. 20024. Under this subject area, EPA is seeking stakeholder views on revisiting the methodology for determining Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) for drinking water, including the Agency's current policy of setting zero goals for carcinogens. In regulating drinking water contaminants which may cause adverse health effects, EPA sets non-enforceable MCLGs to protect against these effects, incorporating a margin of safety. EPA also sets a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), which is enforceable and may be less stringent than the MCLG depending on feasibility.

Several activities planned or ongoing may improve the characterization of the variability and uncertainty associated with the risk assessment for a contaminant. These include noncancer risk assessment methodologies such as the bench mark approach and categorical regression models, revision of the Cancer Risk Assessment Guidelines, revision of the relative source contribution policy, evaluation

of risk assessment methods for chemical mixtures and development of a risk characterization policy. EPA Contact: Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, (202) 260-7586.

Analytical Methods

EPA will hold a public meeting on analytical methods in Cincinnati, Ohio. The schedule for this meeting may be obtained by calling Herb Brass at (513) 569-7936. This subject area encompasses the need to set priorities for enhancing the analytical methods approval process and laboratory certification program within the context of developing and implementing drinking water regulations. EPA is seeking stakeholders' suggestions for making improvements while assuring the comparability and quality of measurement data. Specific issues to be addressed include: streamlining the drinking water methods approval process, including the use of performance-based methods; approaches for standardizing the detection and quantification of contaminants in water: laboratory certification; opportunities for integrating methods across Agency water programs; and the relationship to methods organizations inside and outside of the Agency. EPA Contact: Herb Brass, (513) 569-7936.

Source Water Protection

EPA will hold a public meeting on source water protection on March 23, 1995, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Capitol, 550 C Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024. This subject area is to address preparations for an EPA-sponsored National Source Water Protection Workshop in 1996 which will provide communities with tools and information to enable them to protect their sources of drinking water. The teleworkshop will be targeted to communities which have delineated their source water protection areas and carried out source identification and will assist such communities in moving to source management. EPA is seeking to work with States, communities, interest groups and business leaders, including from the agricultural community, to maximize participation in the teleworkshop.

This subject area will also address the development of source water protection approaches for communities which rely on surface water and the development of a new consumer information provision to inform ratepayers about local water quality and source water protection. EPA Contact: Bob Barles, (202) 260-7077.

Small Systems Capacity Building

EPA will hold a public meeting on small systems capacity building on March 29, 1995, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Capitol, 550 C Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024. This subject area is to address options and priorities for building small system capacity, including the areas of management and operations, technology, and financing. EPA will be seeking suggestions on how best to focus and follow-up on current activities relative to voluntary State viability program development and small systems restructuring. EPA will also be seeking ideas and viewpoints on issues associated with technical assistance and training for small systems, as well as how best to identify and promote use of appropriate small systems technologies. Contact: Peter Shanaghan, (202) 260-5813.

Focusing and Improving Implementation

EPA will hold a public meeting on focusing and improving implementation on March 6, 1995, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the St. James Hotel, 950 24th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037. This subject area encompasses several topics, as follows. EPA is generally seeking stakeholder views on which of these or other implementation activities the Agency should undertake. Where the Agency plans to carry out a particular activity, as in reviewing the State Drinking Water Program Priorities Guidance, stakeholder views on appropriate approaches will be sought.

Review of State Drinking Water Program Priorities Guidance

Recognizing the limited resources that States have to keep pace with expanding federal drinking water program requirements, EPA issued guidance in June 1992 to focus EPA and State resources on the highest priorities first and allow States time to build resources in order to fully implement the program. The priority scheme was to be effective between 1993 and 1998, during which time States are expected to aggressively develop adequate funding to oversee the entire Public Water Supply Supervision (PWSS) program. The guidance does not change or defer statutory or regulatory requirements for EPA, State agencies or public water systems. States have used the guidance successfully in addressing their most important implementation, enforcement and resource challenges. EPA believes that it is time to re-examine this guidance, based upon the experience gained over the past two years, and determine if any changes are

needed to more appropriately focus resources on the highest risks first. We also need to determine how to include new requirements in the priority scheme. EPA Contact: Connie Bosma, (202) 260-5526.

Revising Chemical Monitoring Requirements and Defining Source Water Protection as Best Available Technology

Public water systems are required to monitor for 66 different inorganic (e.g., mercury), synthetic organic (e.g., atrazine) and volatile organic compounds (e.g., benzene) found in drinking water. Costs to collect and analyze these chemicals can be several thousands of dollars per year, which can be beyond the resource capacities for small systems. Several statutory (Chafee-Lautenberg Amendment) and regulatory (e.g., grandfathering data, compositing, State-approved waivers) provisions have provided flexibility to systems to reduce or forego monitoring for at least some chemicals. EPA believes it would be appropriate to consider other revisions to chemical monitoring requirements by, for example, targeting systems at risk of contamination, targeting vulnerable time periods and allowing States greater flexibility to integrate source water protection efforts. EPA also believes it might be useful to consider regulatory changes to allow water systems to use source water protection as an alternative form of treatment for certain contaminants under limited conditions, provided such an alternative provides equivalent health protection. EPA Contact: Mike Muse, (202) 260-3874.

Other Revisions to Strengthen Enforcement and Implementation

Recognizing the limited resources in the drinking water program, EPA is interested in hearing ideas to further strengthen the public health protection provided by the SDWA and the regulations while at the same time streamlining the program. These activities could take the form of outreach, technical assistance and capacity building, or use of authorities provided under other environmental statutes. For example, some potential activities in this area might include the production of special health notifications for serious drinking water contamination, particularly for sensitive subpopulations; additional joint State/EPA efforts to develop State capacity to implement and enforce the drinking water program; and streamlining and strengthening EPA's ability to collect information from drinking water systems (particularly in cases where

contamination is suspected or where a system is required to monitor on a greatly reduced basis). The activities in this area would be designed to ensure greater public health protection and would link to the actions being proposed in other areas (e.g., regulatory realignment, review of priority guidance and greater emphasis on source water protection.) EPA Contact: Bob Blanco, (202) 260-5522.

Dated: February 21, 1995.

Peter L. Cook,

Deputy Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

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[FRL-5156-6]

Administrative Settlement Pursuant to Section 122(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), as Amended, 42 U.S.C. 9622(h), Resource Services, Inc. Site, Springfield, Missouri

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 122(i) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), notice is hereby given that an administrative cost recovery settlement concerning the Resource Services, Inc. Site ("the Site") located in Springfield, Missouri, was entered into by the Environmental Protection Agency ("the Agency") on December 22, 1994. The settlement resolves certain Agency claims under section 107 of CERCLA against the Settling Parties who are named in an attachment to the settlement which is available at EPA Region 7 at the address shown below. The settlement requires the Settling Parties to pay \$50,000.00 to the Hazardous Substance Superfund toward past response costs incurred in relation to the Site.

For thirty (30) days following the date of the publication of this notice, the Agency will accept written comments relating to the settlement. The Agency's response to any comments received will be available for public inspection at the EPA Region 7 Office, located at 726 Minnesota Avenue in Kansas City, Kansas 66101.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before March 27, 1995.

ADDRESSES: The settlement and additional background information relating to the settlement are available for public inspection during weekday business hours at the EPA Region 7 Office at 726 Minnesota Avenue in Kansas City, Kansas 66101. A copy of the settlement may be obtained from Venessa Cobbs, Regional Docket Clerk, EPA Region 7, 726 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66101, telephone: (913) 551-7630.

Comments on the settlement should reference the Resource Services, Inc. Site, in Springfield, Missouri, and EPA Docket No. VII-92-F-0015 and should be addressed to Ms. Cobbs at the address above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Sarah Toevs Sullivan, Associate Regional Counsel, EPA Region 7, Office of Regional Counsel, 726 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66101, telephone: (913) 551-7010.

Dated: February 7, 1995.

Delores Platt,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 7.

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Oconomowoc Bancshares, Inc.; Formation of, Acquisition by, or Merger of Bank Holding Companies

The company listed in this notice has applied for the Board's approval under section 3 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1842) and § 225.14 of the Board's Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.14) to become a bank holding company or to acquire a bank or bank holding company. The factors that are considered in acting on the applications are set forth in section 3(c) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)).

The application is available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. Once the application has been accepted for processing, it will also be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing to the Reserve Bank indicated for that application or to the offices of the Board of Governors. Any comment on an application that requests a hearing must include a statement of why a written presentation would not suffice in lieu of a hearing, identifying specifically any questions of fact that are in dispute and summarizing the evidence that would be presented at a hearing.