

[FRL-5553-7]

National Advisory Committee to the U.S. Representative to the North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (P.L. 92-463), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) gives notice of a meeting of the National Advisory Committee (NAC) to the U.S. Government Representative to the North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation (CEC).

The Committee is established within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to advise the Administrator of the EPA in her capacity as the U.S. Representative to the CEC. The Committee is authorized under Article 17 of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, North America Free Trade Implementation Act, P.L. 103-182 and is directed by Executive Order 12915, entitled "Federal Implementation of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation". The Committee is responsible for providing advice to the U.S. Representative on implementation and further elaboration of the agreement.

The Committee consists of 14 independent representatives drawn from among environmental groups, business and industry, public policy organizations and educational institutions.

DATES: The Committee will meet on September 25, 1996 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and September 26, 1996 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Claremont Hotel, 2000 Fourth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98121. The meeting is open to the public, with limited seating on a first-come, first-served basis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Hardaker, Designated Federal Officer, U.S. EPA, Office of Cooperative Environmental Management, telephone 202-260-2477.

Dated: August 10, 1996.

Robert Hardaker,

Designated Federal Officer, National Advisory Committee.

[FR Doc. 96-20953 Filed 8-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

[FRL 5550-4]

Notice of Availability; Biological Criteria: Technical Guidance for Streams and Small Rivers

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This action announces the availability of the draft document "Biological Criteria: Technical Guidance for Streams and Small Rivers" and the Agency's request for public comment. This document should be used in conjunction with the "Rapid Bioassessment Protocols for Use in Streams and Rivers: Benthic Macroinvertebrates and Fish," 1989, EPA/440/4-89-001. The purpose of this document is to help States develop and use biocriteria for stream and small river surveys. The existing approach to water resource quality assessment will be expanded and enhanced by adding biological integrity measurements and criteria to the physical and chemical parameters now used for ambient assessments. The objective of biocriteria and the Clean Water Act is to restore and maintain the physical chemical and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. In that regard, State and Tribal assessments of stream and small river water quality will be expanded and enhanced so that better management decisions can be made. Use of the technical guidance will also provide consistency to regional databases and promote coordination among the States and Tribes.

DATES: All comments must be postmarked or delivered by hand by October 15, 1996. No facsimiles (faxes) will be accepted.

ADDRESSES: Written comments can be sent to Biological Criteria Clerk, Water Docket MC-4101; Environmental Protection Agency; 401 M Street S.W.; Washington DC. 20460. Comments should be accompanied by any references cited. It is requested that an original and 3 copies of the written comments and enclosures be submitted. A copy of the comments and supporting documents are available for review at EPA's Water Docket at the above address. For access to the Docket materials, call (202) 260-3027 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. for an appointment.

For information concerning electronic availability, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George R. Gibson, Jr., Health and Ecological Criteria Division, Office of Science and Technology (Mail Code

4304), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street S.W., Washington D.C. 20460 or call (202) 260-7580 or (410) 573-2618.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: To obtain a copy of the document, contact: National Center for Environmental Publications and Information (NCEPI): Copies of this document (Biological Criteria: Technical Guidance for Streams and Small Rivers, EPA 822-B-94-001) and other related EPA publications such as the Rapid Bioassessment Protocols for Use in Streams and Rivers (EPA/440/4-89-001) are available: (513) 489-8695, FAX (513) 891-8695.

EPA Regional Office Libraries: EPA has 10 Regional Offices around the country, each with a publicly accessible library. Copies of these documents can be viewed and copied at these EPA Regional libraries.

Internet: You may view the entire Federal Register Notice that describes this notice of availability at <http://www.epa.gov/EPA-WATER>. Comments may also be submitted electronically through the Internet to: OW-DOCKET@epamail.epa.gov. Comments in electronic format should also be identified by this Federal Register publication date and title. All electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

Background Information

In 1989, the Agency began expanding its water quality assessment procedures to include biological water quality criteria in addition to physical and chemical parameters. This information supplements the existing chemical and physical based measurements and water management programs. This guidance document establishes the first combined surface water survey protocol and criteria development guidance for small streams and rivers. This guidance is a prototype upon which others will be predicated, but with obvious modifications to accommodate the characteristics of each particular surface water type. Subsequent guidance documents addressing both survey techniques and criteria development will be written for lakes and reservoirs, estuarine and coastal marine waters, rivers, wetlands, and possibly coral reefs in approximately this order.

Robert Perciasepe,

Assistant Administrator for Water.

[FR Doc. 96-20954 Filed 8-15-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P