

States—James Warner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; Anne Dobbs, Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission; Gene Mitchell, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and Bill Pounds, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

Federal officials—Paul Cassidy, Deborah Dalton, Robert Dellinger, Richard Kinch, and John Sager of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Dated: January 22, 1997.

Elizabeth A. Cotsworth,

Director, Office of Solid Waste.

[FR Doc. 97-2193 Filed 1-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

[FRL-5681-8]

National Drinking Water Advisory Council; Small Systems Working Group; Notice of Open Meeting

Under Section 10(a)(2) of Public Law 92-423, "The Federal Advisory Committee Act," notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Small Systems Working Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. S300f *et seq.*), will be held on February 10 and 11, 1997, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza SW., Washington, DC 20024. The meeting is open to the public, but due to past experience, seating will be limited.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss options for how EPA might implement the capacity development and state affordability information provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996. The meeting is open to the public to observe. The working group members are meeting to gather information and analyze relevant issues and facts. Statements will be taken from the public at this meeting as time allows.

For more information, please contact, Peter E. Shanaghan, Designated Federal Officer, Small Systems Working Group, U.S. EPA, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (4606), 401 M Street SW., Washington, DC 20460. The telephone number is (202) 260-5813 and the e-mail address is shanaghan.peter@epamail.epa.gov.

Dated: January 22, 1997.

Cynthia C. Dougherty,

Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

[FR Doc. 97-2190 Filed 1-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

[FRL-5681-2]

Request for Information and Public Hearing to Evaluate Uses of Stream Segments in Alabama

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of request for information and holding of public hearing.

SUMMARY: EPA is soliciting any information from interested parties and holding a public hearing to assist the Agency in evaluating existing and potential beneficial uses of certain waters in the State of Alabama. This information will be used by EPA in assessing the attainability of such uses and assist the Agency in determining what federal use designations, if any, would be appropriate for these waters. EPA is holding a public hearing for the purposes of receiving information from interested parties. In addition, The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) will be holding a public hearing in March or April 1997 for the purposes of evaluating upgraded use designations on some of these same waters.

DATES: All written information and data received on or before March 12, 1997 will be considered by EPA. A public hearing will be held on February 26, 1997, at 1:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be directed to Morris Flexner, Life Scientist, EPA Region 4, Atlanta Federal Center, Water Management Division, 100 Alabama Street, S.W., Atlanta, GA 30303-3104, (404) 562-9272. A public hearing will be held at the Alabama Center for Commerce, 401 Adams Avenue, Montgomery, AL 38130.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Morris Flexner or Fritz Wagener, Water Quality Standards Coordinator, EPA Region 4, Atlanta Federal Center, Water Management Division, 100 Alabama Street, S.W., Atlanta, GA 30303-3104, (404) 562-9272 or (404) 562-9267.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

1. Statutory/Regulatory History

Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) directs States, with oversight by EPA, to adopt water quality standards to protect public health and welfare, enhance the quality of water and serve the purposes of the CWA. Under Section 303, States have the primary responsibility to establish water quality standards, defined under the Act as designated uses of a water segment and the water quality criteria necessary to

support those uses. Additionally, Indian Tribes authorized to administer the water quality standards program under 40 CFR § 131.8 also establish water quality standards for waters within their jurisdictions. This statutory framework allows States and Tribes to work with local communities to establish appropriate designated uses, and adopt criteria to protect those designated uses. The Act specifies the minimum beneficial uses to be considered by States and Tribes in establishing water quality standards as public water supplies, propagation of fish and wildlife, recreation, agricultural uses, industrial uses and navigation.

Section 303 includes a requirement that States and Tribes review their standards at least once each three year period using a process that includes public participation, and a process for EPA review of State and Tribal standards. Under Section 303(c), EPA is required to either approve new or revised State/Tribal standards that meet the requirements of the Act, or disapprove standards that fail to meet those requirements. Where EPA disapproves a new or revised State/Tribal standard, section 303(c)(4)(A) of the Act states that the Agency is to promptly propose substitute federal standards and promulgate federal standards within 90 days thereafter. In addition, the Agency is authorized to promulgate a federal standard whenever the Agency determines that a new or revised standard is necessary to meet the requirements of CWA Section 303(c)(4)(B).

The implementing regulations for water quality standards regulations are found at 40 CFR Part 131. Under 40 CFR § 131.10(j), States and Tribes are required to conduct a use attainability analysis whenever the State/Tribe designates or has designated uses that do not include the uses specified in Section 101(a)(2) of the CWA, or when the State/Tribe wishes to remove a designated use that is specified in Section 101(a)(2) of the Act, or adopt subcategories of uses that require less stringent criteria. Uses are considered by EPA to be attainable, at a minimum, if the uses can be achieved (1) when effluent limitations under Section 301(b)(1) (A) and (B) and Section 306 are imposed on point source dischargers, and (2) when cost effective and reasonable best management practices are imposed on nonpoint source dischargers.

A use attainability analysis (UAA) is defined in 40 CFR § 131.3(g) as a "structured scientific assessment of the factors affecting the attainment of a use which may include physical, chemical,