

systems, and the larger risk to public health from radon in indoor air from soil under buildings.

On August 6, 1996, amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) were enacted, which establish a new charter for the nation's public water systems. States, and EPA in protecting the safety of drinking water. The amendments [section 1412(b)(13)] direct EPA to develop an MCLG and NPDWR for radon. EPA is required to (1) withdraw the 1991 proposed MCLG and NPDWR for radon-222 (the proposed rule for radon was withdrawn on August 6, 1997; 62 FR 42221); (2) arrange for the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct an independent risk assessment for radon in drinking water and an independent assessment of risk reduction benefits from various mitigation measures to reduce radon in indoor air; (3) publish a radon health risk reduction and cost analysis for possible radon Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for public comment by February 1999; (4) propose an MCLG and NPDWR for radon by August 1999; and (5) publish a final MCLG and NPDWR for radon by August 2000.

If the MCL is "more stringent than necessary to reduce the contribution to radon in indoor air from drinking water to a concentration that is equivalent to the national average concentration of radon in outdoor air," EPA is also required to promulgate an alternative MCL and publish guidelines for state multimedia mitigation programs to mitigate radon levels in indoor air. The alternative MCL would "result in a contribution of radon from drinking water to radon levels in indoor air equivalent to the national average concentration of radon in outdoor air." States may develop and submit to EPA for approval a multimedia mitigation program to mitigate radon levels in indoor air. EPA shall approve State multimedia mitigation programs if they are expected to achieve equivalent or greater health risk reduction benefits than compliance with the MCL. If EPA approves a State multimedia mitigation program, public water supply systems within the State may comply with the alternative MCL. If EPA does not approve a State program, or the State does not propose a program, public water supply systems may propose multimedia mitigation programs to EPA, under the same procedures outlined for States.

B. Request for Stakeholder Involvement

EPA intends for the proposed NPDWR for radon to incorporate the best

available science, treatment technologies, occurrence data, cost/benefit analyses, and stakeholder input on technical and implementation issues. EPA has evaluated comments on the 1991 proposed NPDWR for radon and will be considering those comments in developing the regulation.

The meeting will cover a broad range of issues including: (1) radon in drinking water MCL development (treatment technologies, occurrence, analytical methods); (2) multimedia mitigation program; and (3) stakeholder involvement processes. Background materials on radon in drinking water issues will be sent to all registered participants in advance of the meeting. Issues for discussion and stakeholder input will be based on the materials provided and include (but may not be limited to) the following:

- (1) Any new information or data;
- (2) Issues and concerns related to rule development;
- (3) Issues and concerns related to implementing a multimedia mitigation program from the perspective of your state, water systems, public health and safety organizations, environmental and public interest groups, and the public; and

- (4) Recommendations on the most beneficial points in the process for stakeholder input and preferred approaches for stakeholder input.

EPA has announced this public meeting to hear the views of stakeholders on EPA's plans for activities to develop a NPDWR for radon. The public is invited to provide comments on the issues listed above and other issues related to the radon in drinking water regulation during the October 30, 1997 meeting or in writing by November 14, 1997.

Dated: September 23, 1997.

Elizabeth Fellows,

Acting Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5901-8]

Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) Subcommittee; Review of the National Center for Environmental Research and Quality Assurance

AGENCY: Environmental protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of meeting of the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC)

Subcommittee to Review the National Center for Environmental Research and Quality Assurance (NCERQA).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C., App. 2), notice is hereby given that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Research and Development (ORD), Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) Subcommittee will meet to review the National Center for Environmental Research and Quality Assurance on Monday, October 20 and Tuesday, October 21, 1997. The meeting will be held at the Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 7216, Washington, DC 20004 and will begin at 8 a.m. and recess at approximately 5 p.m. on Monday, October 20, 1997. On Tuesday, October 21, 1997, a Subcommittee writing session will begin at 8 a.m. and adjourn at 1 p.m. Following the writing session, a wrap-up discussion summarizing the preliminary findings and conclusions of the Subcommittee will be held from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. on Tuesday. The BOSC Subcommittee Review meeting will adjourn at 3 p.m. All times are Eastern time. The meeting is open to the public. Any member of the public wishing to make comments at the meeting should contact Shirley R. Hamilton, Designated Federal Official, Office of Research and Development (8701R), 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20460; by telephone at (202) 564-6853. In general, each individual making an oral presentation will be limited to three minutes. Anyone desiring a draft BOSC meeting agenda may fax their request to Shirley R. Hamilton at (202) 565-2444.

DATES: The meeting will be held October 20-21, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the EPA Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 7216, Washington, DC 20004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shirley R. Hamilton, Designated Federal Official, Office of Research and Development (8701R), 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20460; by telephone at (202) 564-6853.

Dated: September 19, 1997.

Henry L. Longest II,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Research and Development.

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