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Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. OA96-203-001]

Western Resources Inc.; Notice of Filing

October 16, 1997.

Take notice that on August 15, 1997, Western Resources Inc., tendered for filing its compliance filing in the above-referenced docket.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before October 27, 1997. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPTS-400117; FRL-5750-6]

Public Meetings on the Toxics Release Inventory Reporting Form

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: EPA will hold approximately nine public meetings over the next year to solicit comments relating to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) reporting form, Form R. The purpose of the meetings is to obtain comments from stakeholders on ways to improve the type of right-to-know information

available to communities and to help streamline right-to-know reporting to ease the paperwork burden for businesses affected by the requirements. This notice announces three upcoming meetings. Additional meeting dates will be announced in future **Federal Register** notices.

DATES: The meetings will take place:

1. Thursday, November 13, 1997, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, East Tower, Rm. 542, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC. Register to speak by 5 p.m., Friday, November 7, 1997.

2. Tuesday, November 18, 1997, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Marianas Conference Room, 75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA. Register to speak by 5 p.m., Thursday, November 13, 1997.

3. Thursday, November 20, 1997, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. 325 (3rd floor), 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL. Register to speak by 5 p.m., Friday, November 14, 1997.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be sent in triplicate to: OPPT Document Control Officer (7407), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Room G-099, East Tower, Washington, DC 20460. Each comment must bear the docket control number "OPPTS-400117."

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically to: oppt.ncic@epamail.epa.gov. Follow the instructions under Unit II. of this document. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

All comments which contain information claimed as CBI must be clearly marked as such. Three sanitized copies of any comments containing information claimed as CBI must also be submitted and will be placed in the public record. Persons submitting information on any portion of which they believe is entitled to treatment as CBI by EPA must assert a business confidentiality claim in accordance with 40 CFR 2.203(b) for each such portion. This claim must be made at the time that the information is submitted to EPA. If a submitter does not assert a confidentiality claim at the time of submission, EPA will consider this as a waiver of any confidentiality claim and the information may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to the submitter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michelle Price, (Mail Stop 7408), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460;

Telephone: (202) 260-3372; Fax number: (202) 401-8142; e-mail: price.michelle@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

EPA will hold approximately nine public meetings over the next year to solicit comments relating to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) reporting form, Form R. The purpose of the meetings is to obtain comments from stakeholders on ways to improve the type of right-to-know information available to communities and to help streamline right-to-know reporting to ease the paperwork burden for businesses affected by the requirements. Topics for comment include the following: format of the Form R; nomenclature used in the Form R; opportunities for burden reduction in both the Form R and the Form A; additional clarification of the elements in the Form R; and EPA's presentation of the data in public information documents.

The sections of the Form R that EPA would like specific comment on are sections 5, 6 and 8. In section 5, there have been a number of issues raised over the years with regard to the definition of "release," particularly with respect to Class I underground injection wells and RCRA Subtitle C landfills. Several commenters believe that EPA's interpretation of the EPCRA definition of "release" will lead to the misperception that a reported EPCRA section 313 "release" necessarily results in an actual exposure of people or the environment to a toxic chemical. The Agency would like to hear suggestions on ways to collect and disseminate the data that are consistent with the Agency's interpretation of the EPCRA definition of "release" and would address the concerns raised regarding public misperception.

There have also been a number of issues raised with regard to the reporting of toxic chemicals in wastes in section 8 of the Form R. Section 8 collects information on waste managed at the facility whether or not the waste was generated at the reporting facility. Some individuals are concerned about public misperception of the data in section 8 because of the focus on the amount of waste managed at the facility, not waste generated. EPA would like comments on ways to change section 8 of the Form R which would continue to allow the user to assess wastes managed by the facility but would minimize the perception that the wastes reported in section 8 were generated by the reporting facility.

On any of the above issues, EPA would like to receive specific comments