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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. William P. Wood, Risk Assessment Forum (8601-D), 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, DC, 20460, telephone (202) 564-3361.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 1986 EPA published cancer risk assessment guidelines (51 FR 33996) and recently proposed revisions to these guidelines (61 FR 17960). From time to time scientific developments prompt the Agency to reexamine its risk assessment guidance (e.g., the assessment of male rat kidney tumors, 57 FR 8123). The National Research Council (NRC) in their 1994 report *Science and Judgment in Risk Assessment* emphasized that well designed guidelines should permit acceptance of new evidence that differs from what was previously perceived as the general case, when scientifically justifiable. In keeping with this principle, the NRC recommended that EPA be more precise in describing the kind and strength of evidence that it will require to depart from a default option and which procedures will be applied in such situations. That is the case with the review of some chemicals that have produced thyroid follicular cell tumors in experimental animals.

EPA's Guidelines for Carcinogen Risk Assessment provide direction for performing hazard and dose-response assessments for carcinogenic substances. The guidelines generally operate on the premise that findings of chemically induced cancer in laboratory animals signal potential hazards in humans. Likewise, for dose-response analyses, the guidelines first call for use of the most biologically appropriate means for dose extrapolation. In the absence of such knowledge, assessors are directed toward the use of a default science policy position, a low-dose linear procedure.

Thyroid gland follicular cell tumors are fairly common in chronic studies of chemicals in rodents. Experimental evidence indicates that the mode of action for these rodent thyroid tumors involves (a) changes in the DNA of thyroid cells with the generation of mutations, (b) disruption of thyroid-pituitary functioning, or (c) a combination of the two. The only verified cause of human thyroid cancer

is ionizing radiation, a mutagenic insult to which children are more sensitive than adults.

In 1988, the Agency organized a review of the existing science on thyroid follicular cell carcinogenesis and a draft science policy position covering the evaluation of chemicals that have induced thyroid tumors in experimental animals (53 FR 20685). The EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) approved the science review and tentatively embraced the policy position that in clearly specified circumstances some thyroid tumors could be assessed using nonlinear considerations. However, they recommended that the Agency (a) articulate more clearly the steps that lead to the use of nonlinear considerations in assessments and (b) illustrate, using case studies, the ways EPA would evaluate data on animal thyroid carcinogens and make projections of anticipated human risk from chemicals that are animal thyroid carcinogens. The Agency revised the Forum Report accordingly, incorporating an update of the scientific literature, and on July 19, 1996 the SAB reviewed and approved the revised Forum Report (61 FR 32796).

The scientific analysis and science policy statement in this Forum Report apply only to tumors involving follicular cells of the thyroid gland. The Forum Report does not analyze or address comparable issues for other endocrine organs.

Dated: March 18, 1998.

William H. Farland,

Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.

[FR Doc. 98-8527 Filed 3-31-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5989-6]

Palmerton Zinc Superfund Site De Minimis Settlement; Proposed Administrative Settlement Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to enter into *de minimis* settlements pursuant to Section 122(g)(4) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, (CERCLA) 42 U.S.C.

9622(g)(4). The proposed settlements are intended to resolve the potential liability under CERCLA of homeowners of 27 residences as *de minimis* parties for response costs incurred by the United States Environmental Protection Agency at the Palmerton Zinc Superfund Site, Carbon County, Pennsylvania.

DATES: Comments must be provided on or before May 1, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to the Docket Clerk, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107, and should refer to: In Re: Palmerton Zinc Superfund Site, Carbon County, Pennsylvania, U.S. EPA Docket Nos. III-97-11-DC, III-97-12-DC, III-97-13-DC, III-97-14-DC, III-97-17-DC, III-97-18-DC, III-97-19-DC, III-97-24-DC, III-97-26-DC, III-97-28-DC, III-97-30-DC, III-97-32-DC, III-97-40-DC, III-97-42-DC, III-97-45-DC, III-97-47-DC, III-97-49-DC, III-97-50-DC, III-97-52-DC, III-97-53-DC, III-97-54-DC, III-97-55-DC, III-97-56-DC, III-97-58-DC, III-97-64-DC, III-97-66-DC, and III-97-69-DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cynthia Nadolski (3RC32), Office of Regional Counsel, United States Environmental Protection Agency, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107, (215) 566-2673.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Notice of De Minimis Settlement

In accordance with Section 122(i)(1) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9622(i)(1), notice is hereby given of proposed administrative settlements concerning the Palmerton Zinc Site in Carbon County, Pennsylvania. The administrative settlements were signed by the Regional Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, on April 11, 1997, and are subject to review by the public pursuant to this Notice. The agreements were also subject to the approval of the Attorney General, United States Department of Justice or her designee.

The 27 parties agree to allow complete access to their properties by EPA and its representatives and to cooperate and not to interfere with the activities of EPA or its representatives during an ongoing response action to remove lead, cadmium and zinc contamination from their properties in Palmerton, Pennsylvania in exchange for receiving a covenant not to sue pursuant to Section 122(g) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9622(g), and contribution protection pursuant to Section 113(f) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9613(f). The

agreements are subject to the contingency that the Environmental Protection Agency may elect not to complete the settlements based on matters brought to its attention during the public comment period established by this Notice.

EPA is entering into these agreements under the authority of Sections 122(g) and 107 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9622(g) and 9607. Section 122(g) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9622(g), authorizes early settlements with *de minimis* parties to allow them to resolve their potential liability under CERCLA. Under this authority, EPA proposes to settle with homeowners at the Palmerton Zinc Site who meet the standards for a *de minimis* landowner settlement under CERCLA Section 122(g)(1)(B), 42 U.S.C. 9622(g)(1)(B). The Environmental Protection Agency will receive written comments to these proposed administrative settlements for thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this Notice. A copy of the proposed Administrative Orders on Consent can be obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, Office of Regional Counsel, (3RC00), 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107, by contacting Cynthia Nadolski, Senior Assistant Regional Counsel, at (215) 566-2673.

Alvin R. Morris,

Acting Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region III.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[DA 98-557]

License Renewal Procedures for Certain 800 MHz Conventional SMR Licenses on General Category Channels

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In this Public Notice, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (Bureau) describes the license renewal procedures for certain 800 MHz conventional SMR licenses on General Category channels. Specifically, the Bureau reminds the licensees of their responsibility to apply for renewal of their license prior to the expiration date of the license. Pursuant to the Commission's rules, failure to file for renewal will result in automatic cancellation of the license on the license expiration date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Terry Fishel at (717) 338-2602 or Ramona Melson, Tejal Mehta or David Judelsohn at (202) 418-7240.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission currently has a large number of 800 MHz conventional Specialized Mobile Radio (SMR) licensees on General Category channels that received an extension of time from eight months to twelve months to construct their facilities and commence operation pursuant to the Commission's decision in Daniel R. Goodman, Receiver; Dr. Robert Chan, Petition for Waiver of sections 90.633(c) and 1.1102 of the Commission's Rules, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 10 FCC Rcd. 8537 (1995) (Goodman/Chan Order). These affected licensees include the Goodman/Chan licensees, who are the approximately 4400 licensees who obtained 800 MHz SMR licenses on General Category channels by using the services of one of four companies that were the subject of an enforcement action brought by the Federal Trade Commission. These four companies are Metropolitan Communications Corp., Nationwide Digital Data Corp., Columbia Communications Services, and Stephens Sinclair, Ltd. The Goodman/Chan Order will become effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**. Goodman/Chan Order, 10 FCC Rcd. at 8551. The Goodman/Chan Order was not immediately published in the **Federal Register** because the Receiver representing the bankrupt licensing companies sought a stay of publication of the Goodman/Chan Order in the **Federal Register** until the Commission agreed to resolve other related issues. Also included within this group are other licensees who have filed waivers seeking relief similar to that granted to the Goodman/Chan Licensees pursuant to the Goodman/Chan Order. The Bureau has not ruled on the requests filed by these licensees and they remain pending.

Because the license terms for some of these licensees are to expire in the near future, the Bureau reminds these licensees that it is the responsibility of each licensee to apply for renewal of its license prior to the expiration date of the license, pursuant to 47 CFR 90.149(a). According to the Commission's rules, in 47 CFR 1.926(a)(1), 800 MHz SMR licensees will receive an Application for Renewal of Private Radio Station License Form (FCC Form 574-R) in the mail from the Commission. If within sixty days before the scheduled expiration of the license, the licensee has not received FCC Form 574-R, the licensee should file a Private

Radio Application for Renewal, Reinstatement and/or Notification of Change to License Information Form (FCC Form 405-A) before the expiration date of the license to renew the license. Thus, failure of a licensee to receive a FCC Form 574-R from the Commission is no excuse for failure to file a renewal application. The license renewal application should be filed in accordance with the Commission's rules at 47 CFR 90.127(b) and the instructions for the appropriate form. In accordance with the Commission's rules, failure to file a license renewal application prior to the license expiration date results in the automatic cancellation of the license on its expiration date. Licensees are also reminded to submit the appropriate fee with the license renewal form.

Licensees may apply for reinstatement of an expired license no later than thirty days after the expiration date of the license. See 47 CFR 90.127(b), 90.149(a). However, reinstatement of the license is not guaranteed. Because no decision has been rendered which, if any, of the licensees with pending waiver requests will be granted relief similar to that granted to the Goodman/Chan Licensees in the Goodman/Chan Order, it is possible that the licenses of such licensees who herein file for a license renewal or reinstatement may subsequently be terminated for failure to construct. Therefore, any renewal or reinstatement of the licenses will not prejudice the outcome of our decision regarding any pending licensees' waiver requests or the resolution of any outstanding issues involving the implementation of waivers previously granted.

Federal Communications Commission.

Daniel Phythyon,

Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

[FR Doc. 98-8572 Filed 3-31-98; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Notice of Agreement(s) Filed

The Commission hereby gives notice of the filing of the following agreement(s) under the Shipping Act of 1984.

Interested parties can review or obtain copies of agreements at the Washington, DC offices of the Commission, 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., Room 962. Interested parties may submit comments on an agreement to the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573, within 10 days of the date this notice appears in the **Federal Register**.