

the summer of 1999. In conjunction with taking final action on its response to the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS remand, EPA also intends to take any final action on the ILP no later than December 2000. In so doing, EPA will draw upon its response to the remand on the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS decision so as to ensure consistency between these actions.

#### Interim Actions

Between now and when final action on the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS remand and the ILP is taken, EPA intends to work with States/tribes with known areas of high 5-minute peak SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations to undertake a number of actions. These actions include the following: determining whether the existing SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS and State Implementation Plan (SIP) requirements are being met in such areas; taking regulatory action in such areas where appropriate (e.g., SIP calls); and initiating enforcement review/action to ensure SIP requirements are met. The EPA also plans to issue monitoring and other guidance to States/tribes/regions to assist them in identifying and addressing high 5-minute peak problems.

#### Solicitation of Information on 5-Minute Peak SO<sub>2</sub> Concentrations

To supplement its current information on 5-minute peak SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and exposures of sensitive asthmatic individuals to peak levels of concern, EPA is soliciting comments and associated information and analyses on such 5-minute peak SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations. The EPA will consider this information in the context of the interim actions described above and in its response to the remand and in its final ILP decision. More specifically, EPA solicits information and analyses on the following: sources or source types and the nature of events that are most likely to give rise to short-term peak SO<sub>2</sub> levels; the magnitude and frequency of such peaks; the time of day of the occurrence of such peaks; meteorological conditions in the area in which such peaks occur; the density of the population near the source(s) involved; and the frequency with which asthmatic individuals would likely be exposed to peak SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations at 0.60 ppm and above while at elevated ventilation rates (i.e., during exercise).

Dated: April 29, 1998.

**Richard D. Wilson,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.*

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6009-4]

#### Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board, Meeting Date and Agenda

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will convene an open meeting of the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) on June 4, 1998, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. This meeting will be conducted by teleconference. The public is invited to join Ms. Ramona Trovato in Room 911, West Tower, Waterside Mall, 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC.

The agenda will include discussion on the newly established working group on Third Party Assessors; Consensus Position from EPA's Environmental Monitoring Management Council; Continuation of ELAB vs. former NELAC Coordination Committee; Conflict-of-Interest Issues with respect to the Accreditation Authorities; Training of Assessors; Method Specific Checklists; Simultaneous Approval of Laboratories; and the Agenda for July 1, 1998, meeting at NELAC IV.

The public is encouraged to attend. Time will be allotted for public comment. Written comments are encouraged and should be directed to Ms. Jeanne Mourrain; Designated Federal Officer; USEPA; NCERQA (MD-75); Research Triangle Park, NC 27711. If questions arise, please contact Ms. Mourrain at 919/541-1120, fax 919/541-4261, or e-mail [mourrain.jeanne@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:mourrain.jeanne@epamail.epa.gov).

Dated: April 24, 1998.

**Nancy W. Wentworth,**

*Director, Quality Assurance Division.*

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

#### Joint EPA/State Agreement To Pursue Regulatory Innovation

[FRL-6008-7]

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of Joint EPA/State Innovation Agreement.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and senior State environmental officials recently signed an agreement entitled Joint EPA/

State Agreement to Pursue Regulatory Innovation (hereafter "Innovations Agreement"). The purpose of the Innovations Agreement is to improve environmental protection in the United States, improve EPA/State environmental management practices, and provide timely decision-making on good ideas. These goals will be achieved through innovation proposals by States, with the intent that many successful innovations will lead to system-wide improvements in environmental protection.

The Innovations Agreement embodies a set of general principles and a process for EPA/State innovation activities that includes:

- Statements of purpose and scope of the agreement;
- Over-arching principles that will govern joint EPA/State regulatory innovation activities;
- The process EPA and the States will use to identify good ideas, including both the continuation of existing State/EPA interactions to start innovation projects, and the establishment of a new mechanism for making decisions on innovative proposals that do not fit into ongoing reinvention programs; and
- Guidelines for how EPA and the States will evaluate the success of innovation activities carried out under this agreement.

This Innovations Agreement builds on the many reinvention efforts that are underway in the States and EPA. It is intended to ensure joint decision-making, timely review, broad public involvement, and continued progress in fostering and implementing ideas that are good for our environment and the people we serve.

**ADDRESSES:** An electronic version of the Innovations Agreement is available on EPA's Office of Reinvention internet home page at <http://www.epa.gov/reinvent>. Interested parties can obtain a single copy of the report by contacting Louise McLaurin (phone 202-260-4261 or e-mail [mclaurin.louise@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:mclaurin.louise@epamail.epa.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For questions on the joint EPA/State Innovations Agreement, please contact John Glenn, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Reinvention, (1803), 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, DC, 20460, phone 202-260-5029, e-mail [glenn.john@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:glenn.john@epamail.epa.gov); or Bruce Brott, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, phone 612-297-8380, e-mail [bruce.brott@pca.state.mn.us](mailto:bruce.brott@pca.state.mn.us).

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