

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY****40 CFR Chapter I**

[FRL-6132-4]

**Public Meeting to Discuss Issues Associated with Regulation of Cooling Water Intake Structures****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency will hold a public meeting to discuss specific issues associated with the development of regulations under section 316(b) of the Clean Water Act applicable to cooling water intake structures. The purpose of this meeting is to facilitate an exchange of information that will assist EPA in developing regulatory options relating to: determining what is best technology available (BTA); the role of cost determinations in implementing section 316(b) and, the role of mitigation in minimizing adverse environmental impacts from cooling water intake structures. This is a follow-on public meeting to the one the Agency held on June 29, 1998 (63 FR 27958, May 21, 1998) to discuss issues associated with defining and measuring adverse environmental impacts from cooling water intake structures. The meeting is open to the public.

**DATES:** The public meeting will be held on Thursday, September 10, 1998 and Friday, September 11, 1998. On Thursday, the meeting will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and end at approximately 4:30 p.m. On Friday, the meeting will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at approximately 12:00 noon.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 625 First Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. For reservation information see

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Deborah Nagle, senior project manager, Office of Wastewater Management (4203), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460; phone number is (202) 260-2656 and E-mail address is [nagle.deborah@epa.gov](mailto:nagle.deborah@epa.gov). For any updates on the issues that EPA will discuss at the meeting, refer to EPA's 316(b) web site at <http://www.epa.gov/owm/316b.htm>. To register for the meeting, please contact Betty Peterson of SAIC via FAX at (703) 903-1374 or via mail at 1710 Goodridge Drive (1-11-7), McLean, VA 22102. Please register by September 3, 1998.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In 1995, EPA entered into a Consent Decree that requires the Agency, no later than July 2, 1999, to propose regulations under section 316(b) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1326(b), and to take final action with respect to the regulations no later than August 13, 2001. The Agency is currently developing these regulations for proposal. Section 316(b) provides that any standard established pursuant to section 301 or 306 of the Clean Water Act and applicable to a point source shall require that the location, design, construction, and capacity of cooling water intake structures reflect the best technology available for minimizing adverse environmental impact. A primary purpose of section 316(b) is to minimize the impingement and entrainment of fish and other aquatic organisms as they are drawn into a facility's cooling water intake.

The public meeting will focus on the following topics:

(1) BTA. The BTA determination is a critical element in implementing section 316(b). The Agency seeks input from stakeholders on appropriate technologies for satisfying the requirement of section 316(b) that the location, design, construction, and capacity of cooling water intake structures reflect the best technology currently available for minimizing adverse environmental impact from cooling water intake structures.

(2) Role of Costs in Implementing section 316(b). EPA seeks input on how cost should or should not be considered in implementing section 316(b).

(3) Mitigation. EPA is considering whether the section 316(b) regulations should include a national standard on the use of mitigation in minimizing adverse environmental impacts. EPA seeks input on whether and how to apply such a standard.

The public meeting will be divided into three discussion periods. Each discussion period will address one of the three topics outlined above. EPA will initiate the discussion in each period by defining the issue. EPA expects that stakeholders will then continue the discussion by providing their views. EPA does not intend for the public meeting to be a forum for formal testimony. However, EPA will accept written comments on the three issues at the meeting or until October 5, 1998.

The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 625 First Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. A block of sleeping rooms has been reserved at the hotel for the nights of Wednesday, September 9 and Thursday, September 10. Contact the hotel to make

reservations at (703) 548-6300. The rooms are listed under "U.S. EPA Section 316(b) Meeting."

The hotel can be reached via hotel shuttle bus from Washington's National Airport (baggage claim area of Gate 5 in the new terminal). The shuttle runs on the half hour. The blue and yellow lines of Washington's subway system (Metro) stop at National Airport. The closest subway stop to the hotel is the "King Street" metro station. It is approximately 9 blocks from the hotel and is also on the blue and yellow lines of the subway system.

**Tudor T. Davies,***Director, Office of Science and Technology.*

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY****40 CFR Part 281**

[FRL-6130-6]

**Virginia; Approval of Underground Storage Tank Program****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice of tentative determination on Virginia's application for approval of underground storage tank program, public hearing and public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Commonwealth of Virginia (State) has applied for approval of its underground storage tank program under Subtitle I of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the State's application and has made the tentative decision that the State's underground storage tank program satisfies all of the requirements necessary to qualify for approval. The State's application for approval is available for public review and comment. A public hearing will be held to solicit comments on the application unless insufficient public interest is expressed.

**DATES:** Unless insufficient public interest is expressed in holding a hearing, a public hearing will be held on September 11, 1998. However, EPA reserves the right to cancel the public hearing if sufficient public interest in a hearing is not communicated to EPA in writing by September 4, 1998. EPA will determine by September 9, 1998, whether there is sufficient interest to hold the public hearing. The State will participate in any public hearing held by EPA on this subject. All written comments on the State's application for