

comments on the described application. A copy of the application may be obtained by agencies directly from the Applicant. If an agency does not file comments within the time specified for filing comments, it will be presumed to have no comments. One copy of an agency's comments must also be sent to the Applicant's representatives.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-27494 Filed 10-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6461-4]

Notice of Fifth Meeting of the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: Fifth Meeting of the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force. The purpose of this Task Force, consisting of Federal, State, and Tribal members, is to understand and address nutrient management and hypoxia related issues in the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico watersheds. The matters to be discussed at the meeting include the Integrated Assessment of the causes and consequences of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico, and the Action Plan issues, approach, and schedule, including sharing ideas for consultation with States, Tribes, and stakeholders within the Mississippi River Basin (see agenda on EPA website at <<http://www.epa.gov/msbasin/>>). The Integrated Assessment and the Action Plan were requested by the National Science and Technology Council's Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR) as required by section 604(a) and 604(b) of Public Law 105-383 Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998. The meeting of the Task Force will be open to the public, and the public will be afforded an opportunity to provide input during open discussion periods.

DATES: 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., November 18, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Holiday Inn O'Hare International, 5440 North River Road, Rosemont, IL; (847) 671-6350. The meeting is open to the public and is limited only by the space available. The room accommodates approximately 125 people.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Mary Belefski, U.S. EPA, Assessment and Watershed Protection Division (AWPD), 401 M Street, SW (4503F), Washington, DC 20460, telephone (202) 260-7061; Internet: belefski.mary@epa.gov. For additional information on hotel accommodations contact Marquetta Davis, Tetra Tech, Inc., 10306 Eaton Place, Suite 340, Fairfax, VA 22030, telephone: (703) 385-6000; Email:davisma@tetratech-ffx.com.

Dated: October 15, 1999.

Robert Wayland,

Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds.

[FR Doc. 99-27544 Filed 10-20-99; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6461-3]

Notice of Availability of an Integrated Assessment of the Causes and Consequences of Hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in coordination with the National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce, invites public comments on an integrated assessment of the causes and consequences of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico as required by section 604(a) of Public Law 105-383. The Integrated Assessment was prepared by the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Working Group under the auspices of the National Science and Technology Council's Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR) and will be delivered to the President, Congress and the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force. **DATES:** Comments must be received by December 20, 1999. Any comments received after the formal comment period will be reviewed by the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Working Group and delivered to the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force for their consideration along with the final Integrated Assessment.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted to: Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Working Group, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Centers for Coastal Ocean

Science, Room 9127, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Donald Pryor, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, Room 9127, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, telephone 301-713-3000x127, Internet: don.pryor@noaa.gov; or Dr. Mary Belefski, U.S. EPA, Assessment and Watershed Protection Division (AWPD), 401 M Street, SW (4503F), Washington, DC 20460, telephone (202) 260-7061; Internet: belefski.mary@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose

The Environmental Protection Agency leads the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force consisting of Federal, State, and Tribal members. The Task Force has accepted the responsibility to develop an Action Plan, based on the Integrated Assessment and other information, for reducing, mitigating, and controlling hypoxia in the northern Gulf of Mexico. The Action Plan is required by section 604(b) of Public Law 105-383.

Status

The Integrated Assessment, as required in section 604(a) of Public Law 105-383, examines the distribution, dynamics, and causes of hypoxia; ecological and economic consequences; sources and loads of nutrients transported by the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico; effects of reducing nutrient loads; methods for reducing nutrient loads; and the social and economic costs and benefits of such methods.

Six topical reports, each covering one of the aspects listed above, were prepared by teams of scientists. Each of the reports underwent extensive peer review by independent scientific experts. These reports, along with the public comment on them, were considered in developing the Integrated Assessment. (See 64 FR 23834-23835 dated May 4, 1999.)

The Integrated Assessment, as well as the six topical reports and the public comments, may be reached via either the EPA or NOAA/NOS websites: at <<http://www.epa.gov/msbasin/>> or <http://www.nos.noaa.gov/Products/pubs_hypox.html>; or contact those listed above for information on how to obtain the reports.