

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6840-4]

Proposed CERCLA Administrative Cost Recovery Settlement for the Bioclinical Laboratories Superfund Site, Bohemia, Suffolk County, New York

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 122(i) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. 9622(i), notice is hereby given by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), Region II, of a proposed administrative settlement pursuant to section 122(h) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9622(h), for recovery of past response costs concerning the Bioclinical Laboratories Superfund Site ("Site") located at 1585 Smithtown Avenue in Bohemia, Suffolk County, New York, with Harold Carpenter and Carpenter Construction Company, Inc. ("Settling Parties"). The settlement requires the settling parties to pay the principal sum of \$100,000.00 in three payments plus interest at the prevailing Superfund interest rate (5.30%), to the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund in reimbursement of past response costs incurred with respect to the Site. The Settlement includes a covenant not to sue the settling parties pursuant to section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9607(a), for all costs incurred at or in connection with the Site by the United States prior to December 31, 1999. For thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this notice, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA" or "Agency") will receive written comments relating to the settlement. The Agency will consider all comments received and may modify or withdraw its consent to the settlement if comments received disclose facts or considerations that indicate that the proposed settlement is inappropriate, improper or inadequate. The Agency's response to any comments received will be available for public inspection at the EPA, Region II, 290 Broadway, New York, New York 10007-1866.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before August 24, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The proposed settlement is available for public inspection at the EPA, 290 Broadway, New York, New York 10007-1866. Comments should

reference the Bioclinical Laboratories Superfund Site located in Bohemia, New York, Docket No. CERCLA-02-2000-2015. A copy of the proposed settlement may be obtained from the individual listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Henry A. Guzman, Assistant Regional Counsel, New York/Caribbean Superfund Branch, Office of Regional Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 17th Floor, 290 Broadway, New York, New York 10007-1866. Telephone: 212-637-3166.

Dated: July 13, 2000.

William J. Muszynski,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 2.

[FR Doc. 00-18791 Filed 7-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6839-8]

Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program; Proposed Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Study Design

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting to receive comment on a study design for collecting information to assess environmental risks associated with the hydraulic fracturing of coal beds for methane gas recovery.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to announce that EPA intends to conduct a study of the environmental risks associated with hydraulic fracturing; EPA has drafted a design for the study and invites comment from the public on the study design; and, EPA will hold a public meeting to solicit input on the study design.

Prior to 1997, EPA had not considered regulating hydraulic fracturing because the Agency believed that this well production stimulation process did not fall under the UIC program's purview, nor was it under the jurisdiction of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). In 1994, the Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation (LEAF) challenged that interpretation by petitioning EPA to withdraw Alabama's EPA-approved Section 1425 (SDWA) UIC program because LEAF believed the State should regulate hydraulic fracturing for coal bed methane development as underground injection. EPA rejected LEAF's petition, but LEAF litigated and in 1997, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that hydraulic fracturing of coal beds in Alabama should be regulated under the SDWA as

underground injection (*LEAF v. EPA*, 118 F. 3d 1467). The State was required to modify its UIC program, and in December 1999, EPA approved this revision. Since the 11th Circuit Court's decision, EPA has received verbal and written reports from several environmental interest groups that practices associated with methane gas production from coal beds has resulted in contamination of their underground drinking water sources.

Because of such reports, and because the frequency of coal bed methane development is rapidly escalating, EPA will conduct a study to evaluate the environmental risks to underground sources of drinking water, potential and actual, associated with hydraulic fracturing. The study will initially evaluate hydraulic fracturing of coal beds, however, EPA will also consider experiences with hydraulic fracturing associated with other types of production. EPA may later study a wider universe of hydraulic fracturing if information collected during this study indicates further investigation is warranted.

The current study will estimate contamination incidents associated with hydraulic fracturing through interviews with State and local agencies responsible for drinking water protection, citizens, and industries performing hydraulic fracturing. The study will also include a literature review to provide information on the potential risks posed by hydraulic fracturing of coal beds in areas likely to be developed for methane gas production.

EPA is requesting comments on the proposed study design from stakeholders interested in coal bed methane production. EPA believes receiving stakeholder input in the initial study design will assist it in conducting a comprehensive investigation in the most efficient and expeditious way possible.

DATES: A public meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2000, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. EPA requests parties who plan to attend provide notice including name, title, organization, address, telephone, fax, and/or email by August 15, 2000, so that sufficient facilities can be made available. The meeting will be made available to remote locations through teleconferencing. Any person may also provide comment on the proposed study design in writing to EPA by August 25, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The proposed study can be viewed on EPA's Internet site at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic.html>. Copies of the proposed study may be

obtained from EPA's Water Resource Center by phone at (202) 260-7786, or by e-mail to center.water-resource@epa.gov or by conventional mail to EPA Water Resource Center, RC-4100, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Notices to attend the public meeting and comments may be submitted to E. Barros, Horsley & Witten, Inc., 90 Route 6A, Sandwich, MA 02563, Fax: (508) 833-9140, E-mail: ebarros@horsleywitten.com. The August 24, 2000, public meeting will be held at the Omni Shoreham, 2500 Calvert Street, NW., Washington, DC, PH: (202) 234-0700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: L. Cronkhite, Ground Water Protection Division, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 4606, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460, PH: (202) 260-0713.

Dated: July 19, 2000.

Cynthia C. Dougherty,
Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

[FR Doc. 00-18793 Filed 7-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Being Submitted to OMB for Review and Approval

July 18, 2000.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) that does not display a valid control number. Comments are requested concerning (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to

minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted on or before August 24, 2000. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all comments to Les Smith, Federal Communications Commission, Room 1-A804, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20554 or via the Internet to lesmith@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or copies of the information collections contact Les Smith at (202) 418-0217 or via the Internet at lesmith@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Control Number: 3060-0773.

Title: Marketing of RF Devices Prior to Equipment Authorization, 47 CFR Section 2.830.

Form Number: N/A.

Type of Review: Extension of currently approved collection.

Respondents: Businesses or other for-profit entities.

Number of Respondents: 6,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 0.5 hours.

Frequency of Response: On occasion reporting requirement; Third party disclosure.

Total Annual Burden: 3,000 hours.

Total Annual Costs: N.A.

Needs and Uses: FCC rules permit the display and advertising of radio frequency (RF) devices prior to equipment authorization or a determination of compliance, providing that the advertising or display contains a conspicuous notice as specified at 47 CFR Section 2.803(c). A notice must also accompany RF prototype equipment devices offered for sale, as stated in 47 CFR Section 2.803(c)(2), prior to equipment authorization or a showing of compliance, that the equipment must comply with FCC rules prior to delivery. This information informs third parties of the FCC's requirement for the responsible party to comply with its rules.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-18730 Filed 7-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[DA 00-1596]

New Commission Registration System (CORES)

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document announces the New Commission Registration System (CORES). Starting July 19, 2000, the Commission will begin implementing (CORES). CORES is a registration system for entities filing applications or making payments with the Commission. CORES will assign a unique 10-digit FCC Registration Number (FRN) which can be obtained both on-line and manually. Over time, the FRN will be used by all Commission systems that handle financial, authorization of service, and enforcement activities. The use of the registration number is voluntary, although the Commission will consider making it mandatory in the future. FCC customers can access the on-line filing system or get further information on CORES by visiting the FCC's web site at www.fcc.gov and clicking on the CORES registration link. You may also file manually by completing and filing a FCC Form 160 (CORES Registration). Mailing instructions are found on Form 160. Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Universal Licensing System registrants will receive a CORES registration number automatically by mail if they were registered prior to June 22, 2000.

DATES: The Commission Registration System (CORES) will be operational on July 19, 2000. The Commission will hold a public forum on July 31, 10 to 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public forum will be held in the Commission Meeting Room at 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To attend the public forum contact Tammy Watson at twatson@fcc.gov, or by calling (202) 418-0565. Individuals with disabilities who need accommodations for the July 31 public forum are asked to contact Brian Millin at access@fcc.gov, or by calling (202) 418-7426 voice, (202) 418-7365 TTY.

Andrew S. Fishel,
Managing Director.

[FR Doc. 00-18731 Filed 7-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P