

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6842-3]

Science Advisory Board; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meetings

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that the Environmental Engineering Committee (EEC), and its Subcommittee, of the USEPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) will hold two meetings on the dates and times noted below. All times noted are Eastern Daylight Time. All meetings are open to the public, however, seating is limited and available on a first come basis. *Important Notice:* Documents that are the subject of SAB reviews are normally available from the originating EPA office and are not available from the SAB Office—information concerning availability of documents from the relevant Program Office is included below.

1. Natural Attenuation Research Subcommittee—August 14–15, 2000

The Natural Attenuation Research Subcommittee of the Science Advisory Board's (SAB) Environmental Engineering Committee (EEC) will meet from 8:30 am Monday, August 14, 2000 until 3:30 pm Tuesday, August 15, 2000. The meeting will be held in Conference Room AR 6530, USEPA, Ariel Rios Building North, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004. The Ariel Rios Building is adjacent to the escalator to the Federal Triangle Metro Station on 12th Street NW.

Purpose of the Meeting:—The purpose of this meeting is to complete the Subcommittee's review of EPA's natural attenuation research. This activity began at the January 26 conference call meeting. A preliminary non-consensus draft based on the Subcommittee members individual written comments will be available at the meeting.

Availability of Review Materials: The review materials were announced in previous notices (see 65 FR 1866-1867, January 12, 2000). A limited number of paper copies of these documents can be obtained from Dr. Stephen Schmelling at e-mail: schmelling.steve@epa.gov or via phone at (580) 436-8540.

2. Environmental Engineering Committee Teleconference—September 20, 2000

The Science Advisory Board's Environmental Engineering Committee will meet via teleconference from 3:00 to 5:00 pm Wednesday August 20, 2000. The public is encouraged to attend

telephonically. To do so, please contact Ms. Mary Winston at least a week prior to the teleconference at (202) 564-4538, or via e-mail at winston.mary@epa.gov.

Purpose of the Meeting: The Committee plans to review Subcommittee reports, including that of the Natural Attenuation Research Subcommittee, consider future activities, and develop and agenda for its next face-to-face meeting, tentatively planned for December 5-7, 2000.

Availability of Materials: Materials discussed on the conference call will be available in advance. For these materials, please contact Ms. Mary Winston approximately a week before the teleconference at (202) 564-4538, or via e-mail at winston.mary@epa.gov.

For Further Information: Any member of the public wishing further information concerning either meeting or wishing to submit brief oral comments must contact Ms. Kathleen White Conway, Designated Federal Officer, Science Advisory Board (1400A), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460; telephone (202) 564-4559; FAX (202) 501-0582; or via e-mail at conway.katheen@epa.gov. Requests for oral comments must be *in writing* (e-mail, fax or mail) and received by Ms. Conway no later than noon Eastern Time one week prior to each meeting.

Providing Oral or Written Comments at SAB Meetings

It is the policy of the Science Advisory Board to accept written public comments of any length, and to accommodate oral public comments whenever possible. The Science Advisory Board expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted oral or written statements.

Oral Comments: In general, each individual or group requesting an oral presentation at a face-to-face meeting will be limited to a total time of ten minutes. For teleconference meetings, opportunities for oral comment will usually be limited to no more than three minutes per speaker and no more than fifteen minutes total. Deadlines for getting on the public speaker list for a meeting are given above. Speakers should bring at least 35 copies of their comments and presentation slides for distribution to the reviewers and public at the meeting. *Written Comments:* Although the SAB accepts written comments until the date of the meeting (unless otherwise stated), written comments should be received in the SAB Staff Office at least one week prior to the meeting date so that the

comments may be made available to the committee for their consideration. Comments should be supplied to the appropriate DFO at the address/contact information noted above in the following formats: one hard copy with original signature, and one electronic copy via e-mail (acceptable file format: WordPerfect, Word, or Rich Text files (in IBM-PC/Windows 95/98 format). Those providing written comments and who attend the meeting are also asked to bring 25 copies of their comments for public distribution.

General Information:—Additional information concerning the Science Advisory Board, its structure, function, and composition, may be found on the SAB Website (<http://www.epa.gov/sab>) and in The FY1999 Annual Report of the Staff Director which is available from the SAB Publications Staff at (202) 564-4533 or via fax at (202) 501-0256. Committee rosters, draft Agendas and meeting calendars are also located on our website.

Meeting Access:—Individuals requiring special accommodation at this meeting, including wheelchair access to the conference room, should contact Ms. Conway at least five business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Dated: July 18, 2000.

John R. Fowle,

Acting Staff Director, Science Advisory Board.

[FR Doc. 00-19011 Filed 7-26-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6842-1]

Regulatory Reinvention (XLC) Pilot Projects

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability of City of Columbus, Ohio Project XL for Communities (XLC) Draft Final Project Agreement and Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Draft Variance.

SUMMARY: EPA is today requesting comments on a draft Project XLC Final Project Agreement (FPA) and draft SDWA Variance for the City of Columbus, OH. The FPA is a voluntary agreement developed by the City of Columbus and the State of Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, project stakeholders, and U.S. EPA. The SDWA Variance would be the federal legal mechanism used to provide regulatory flexibility to the City of

Columbus in the event of a Lead Action Level (LAL) exceedance under the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). The SDWA Variance would not be effective and the City of Columbus would not be considered to be operating under a SDWA Variance unless and until the City exceeded the LAL.

DATES: The period for submission of comments ends on August 28, 2000.

ADDRESSES: All comments on the draft Final Project Agreement and draft SDWA Variance should be sent to: Miguel Del Toral, Water Division, WD-15J, US EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60604-3507, or Kristina Heinemann, U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Mail Code 1802, Washington, DC 20460. Comments may also be faxed to Mr. Del Toral at (312) 886-6171 or Ms. Heinemann at (202) 260-7875. Comments will also be received via electronic mail sent to: deltoral.miguel@epa.gov or heinemann.kristina@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To obtain a copy of the draft Final Project Agreement or draft SDWA Variance, contact: Miguel Del Toral Water Division, WD-15J, U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60604-3507, or Kristina Heinemann, U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Mail Code 1802, Washington, DC 20460. The documents are also available via the Internet at the following location: "<http://www.epa.gov/ProjectXL>". In addition, public files on the Project are located at U.S. EPA Region 5 in Chicago, IL. Questions to EPA regarding the documents can be directed to Miguel Del Toral at (312) 886-5253 or Kristina Heinemann at (202) 260-5355. Additional information on Project XL and XLC, including documents referenced in this notice, other EPA policy documents related to Project XL and XLC, application information, and descriptions of existing XL and XLC projects and proposals, is available via the Internet at "<http://www.epa.gov/ProjectXL>".

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Project XLC, announced in the **Federal Register** on November 1, 1995 (60 FR 55569), gives regulated sources the flexibility to develop alternative strategies that will replace or modify specific regulatory requirements on the condition that they produce greater environmental benefits.

In the past, the City of Columbus made certain changes to the method it uses to treat drinking water. Inadvertently, the treatment change caused an increase in the level of lead in the drinking water. Under the Federal and State drinking water regulations, if

the lead levels rise above the limit established by U.S. EPA and OEPA, the Lead Action Level, the City must begin sampling lead service lines (LSL) immediately and replacing those lines that contribute high levels of lead. See 40 CFR 141.84 and Ohio Administrative Code Rule 3745-81-84.

If implemented, the draft FPA would carry out an XLC project in the City of Columbus to test a potentially more effective means of addressing health concerns from lead through a program run by the Columbus Departments of Health and Trade and Development, the Lead Safe Columbus Program (LSCP), in addition to closer coordination on drinking water treatment issues. Through this Agreement, the US EPA would suspend the LSL sampling and replacement provisions for up to three years beginning if and when the City exceeds the lead limit, provided this occurs within six years of making a drinking water treatment change. In exchange for this regulatory flexibility, the Columbus Division of Water proposes to contribute \$300,000 a year for 15 years to the LSCP.

The LSCP provides free blood testing, public education, medical intervention for lead-poisoned children, and grants and loans for lead abatement to residents of Columbus in high-risk areas. The LSCP targets an area consisting of twenty-five high-risk census tracts within ten zip codes in older, predominantly low-income, minority neighborhoods in Columbus, where 84% of all elevated blood lead levels in the City were found.

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300f-300j-26, EPA promulgates national primary drinking water regulations (NPDWRs) which specify for certain drinking water contaminants either a maximum level or treatment technique with which public water systems must comply. EPA has promulgated a NPDWR for lead and copper that consists of a treatment technique requiring public water systems to take various steps to ensure that users of public water systems are not exposed to levels of lead and copper in drinking water that would result in adverse health effects.

The State of Ohio has primary enforcement responsibility for administering the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) because it has adopted regulations that are at least as stringent as the federal regulation. The State regulation currently applies to the City of Columbus's public water system. The federal government however has the authority to grant a variance under section 1415(a)(3) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. 300g-4 and believes that a

variance would be the appropriate legal mechanism for this XLC project.

U.S. EPA has determined that the Columbus XLC Project has merit, and believes that a SDWA variance would be the appropriate legal mechanism for providing the City of Columbus the regulatory flexibility the City has requested through Project XLC.

The SDWA Variance, which will become effective only if the City of Columbus actually experiences a Lead AL exceedance, will provide the City with a temporary suspension of the LSL sampling and replacement requirements while it makes water treatment modifications. EPA has tentatively determined that the City's approach of enhanced coordination under the Lead and Copper Rule will be at least as efficient in lowering the level of lead delivered to users of the public water system as the current regulation. In addition the LSCP would provide additional public health benefits by providing free blood testing, public education, medical intervention for lead poisoned children, and grants and loans for lead abatement to residents of Columbus in high risk areas.

Dated: July 21, 2000.

Christopher Knopes,

Acting Director, Office of Environmental Policy Innovation.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OW-FRL-6841-7]

Nutrient Criteria Development; Notice of Nutrient Criteria Technical Guidance Manual: Rivers and Streams

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of nutrient criteria technical guidance manual: rivers and streams.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency announces the availability of a nutrient criteria technical guidance manual for Rivers and Streams. This document provides State and Tribal water quality managers and others with guidance on how to develop numeric nutrient criteria for Rivers and Streams. This document does not contain site-specific numeric nutrient criteria for any river or stream systems. This guidance was principally developed to assist States and Tribes in their efforts to establish nutrient criteria. States and Tribes are clearly in the best position to consider site-specific conditions in