

SORE Rule, which applies to all gasoline, diesel, and other fueled utility and lawn and garden equipment engines 25 horsepower and under, with certain exceptions established two "tiers" of exhaust emission standards for these engines (Tier 1 from 1995 through 1998 model years, and Tier 2 for model year 1999 and beyond), as well as numerous other requirements. By letter dated October 4, 1999, CARB notified EPA that it had adopted numerous amendments to its SORE Regulations which were first approved at a public hearing on March 26, 1998. These amendments are the product of CARB's continuing reviews of industry efforts to comply with the requirements of the CARB nonroad program. The Board directed the CARB staff to review the industry progress in developing the technology required to comply with the Tier 2 standards, and to consider issues raised by the industry in this process. The staff recommended to the Board that the SORE regulations "be modified to reflect the realities of the small engine market and the technological capabilities of the industry."<sup>12</sup> These recommended amendments which CARB adopted consequently reduce compliance burdens on manufacturers while also "preserving most of the emission reductions—including most reductions in excess of comparable federal program—that U.S.E.P.A. previously authorized."<sup>13</sup>

In its request letter, CARB asked EPA to confirm the CARB determination that the amendments to the SORE regulations set forth in its request package are within the scope of the 209(e) authorization of the original authorization granted by EPA for the SORE Rule in July 1995. EPA has made such a determination for most of the regulation amendments included in the CARB request.<sup>14</sup> EPA also has determined, on the other hand, that one set of regulation amendments in this request cannot be considered within the scope of the previous authorization because these particular amendments set brand new, more stringent standards and therefore properly should be reviewed as a new authorization request. These amendments set useful

Utility, Lawn and Garden Engine (ULGE) regulations. The new amendments, among other things, renamed the ULGE regulations as the SORE regulations.

<sup>12</sup> CARB Notice of Public Hearing with attached Staff Report, Docket A-2000-09, entry II-B-2, p. 2.

<sup>13</sup> Letter from CARB to EPA requesting within the scope confirmation for amendments to SORE Rule, dated October 4, 1999, Docket A-2000-09, entry II-B-1, p. 3.

<sup>14</sup> Decision Document for California Nonroad Engine Regulations Amendments, Dockets A-2000-05 to 08, entry V-B.

life standards for covered engines (where before there were none). Accordingly, EPA announces this opportunity for a public hearing on these new standards.

### III. Procedures for Public Participation

Any party desiring to make an oral statement on the record should file ten (10) copies of its proposed testimony and other relevant material with John Guy Doyle at the address listed above no later than December 20, 2000. In addition, the party should submit 25 copies, if feasible, of the planned statement to the presiding officer at the time of the hearing.

In recognition that a public hearing is designed to give interested parties an opportunity to participate in this proceeding, there are no adverse parties as such. Statements by participants will not be subject to cross-examination by other participants without special approval by the presiding officer. The presiding officer is authorized to strike from the record statements that he or she deems irrelevant or repetitious and to impose reasonable time limits on the duration of the statement of any participant.

If a hearing is held, the Agency will make a verbatim record of the proceedings. Interested parties may arrange with the reporter at the hearing to obtain a copy of the transcript at their own expense. Regardless of whether a public hearing is held, EPA will keep the record open until December 22, 2000. Upon expiration of the comment period, the Administrator will render a decision on CARB's request based on the record of the public hearing, if any, relevant written submissions, and other information that she deems pertinent. All information will be available for inspection at EPA Air Docket, in Docket No. A-2000-09.

Persons with comments containing proprietary information must distinguish such information from other comments to the greatest possible extent and label it as "Confidential Business Information" (CBI). If a person making comments wants EPA to base its decision in part on a submission labeled CBI, then a nonconfidential version of the document that summarizes the key data or information should be submitted for the public docket. To ensure that proprietary information is not inadvertently placed in the docket, submissions containing such information should be sent directly to the contact person listed above and not to the public docket. Information covered by a claim of confidentiality will be disclosed by EPA only to the extent allowed and by the procedures

set forth in 40 CFR Part 2. If no claim of confidentiality accompanies the submission when EPA receives it, EPA will make it available to the public without further notice to the person making comments.

Dated: November 9, 2000.

**Robert Perciasepe,**

*Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL 6904-4]

### Science Advisory Board; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meeting

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that The Research Strategies Advisory Committee (RSAC) of the US EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB), will meet on December 12 and 13, 2000 at the One Washington Circle Hotel located at One Washington Circle, NW, Washington, D.C. The meeting will begin by 8:30 a.m. and adjourn no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard time on both days. The meeting is open to the public, however, seating is limited and available on a first come basis.

*Purpose of the Meeting*—The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the FY 2002 Agency Budget Process and Schedule as a prelude to the Committee's formal review of the Science and Technology (S&T) portion of that budget in February. The Committee will be briefed on the Agency's Science Plan and Inventory, and it will consider how to conduct the second phase of its review of the implementation of EPA's Peer Review Process. The Committee will also spend part of the meeting planning its activities for the next year.

*For Further Information*—Any member of the public wishing further information concerning this meeting or wishing to submit brief oral comments (10 minutes or less) must contact Dr. John "Jack" R. Fowle III, Designated Federal Officer, Science Advisory Board (1400A), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460; telephone (202) 564-4547; FAX (202) 501-0323; or via e-mail at [fowle.jack@epa.gov](mailto:fowle.jack@epa.gov). Requests for oral comments must be *in writing* (e-mail, fax or mail) and received by Dr. Fowle no later than noon Eastern Standard Time on December 7, 2000.

### 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 the DFO at least five business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Dated: November 9, 2000.

**Donald G. Barnes,**

*Staff Director, Science Advisory Board.*

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### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6904-7]

#### Draft Benchmark Dose Technical Guidance Document

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice of Peer-Review Workshop and Public Comment Period.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing that Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG), an EPA contractor for external scientific peer review, will organize, convene, and conduct an external peer-review workshop to review the draft document titled: "Benchmark Dose Technical Guidance Document" (EPA/630/R-00/001). The EPA is also announcing a 30-day public comment period for the draft document. The document was prepared by an EPA Risk Assessment Forum Technical Panel. The Technical Panel will consider the peer-review and public comment submissions in finalizing the document.

**DATES:** The peer-review workshop will begin on Thursday, December 7, 2000, at 8:30 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m., then reconvene Friday, December 8, 2000, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Members of the public may attend as observers, and there will be a limited time for comments from the public. The 30-day public comment period begins November 20, 2000, and ends December 20, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** The external peer-review workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn Capital, 550 C Street SW, Washington DC 20024. To attend the workshop register by November 30, 2000 by calling ERG at (781) 674-7374 or send a facsimile to (781) 674-2906. You may also register on the Internet at <http://www.erg.com/conferences/index.htm>, or by E-mail at [confmail@erg.com](mailto:confmail@erg.com). Space is limited, and reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be a limited time for comments from the public during the workshop. Please let ERG know if you wish to make comments.

The draft "Benchmark Dose Technical Guidance Document" is available primarily via the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/nea/bnchmrk/bmds->

*peer.htm*. A limited number of paper copies are available from the Technical Information Staff (8623D), NCEA-W; telephone: 202-564-3261; facsimile: 202-565-0050. If you are requesting a paper copy, please provide your name, mailing address, and the document title, draft "Benchmark Dose Technical Guidance Document." Copies are not available from ERG. Comments may be mailed to the Technical Information Staff (8623D), NCEA-W, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460, or delivered to the Technical Information Staff at 808 17th Street, NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20006; telephone: 202-564-3261; facsimile: 202-565-0050. Comments should be in writing and must be postmarked by December 20, 2000. Please submit one unbound original with pages numbered consecutively, and three copies of the comments. For attachments, provide an index, number pages consecutively with the comments, and submit an unbound original and three copies. Electronic comments may be emailed to: [nceadc.comment@epa.gov](mailto:nceadc.comment@epa.gov).

Please note that all technical comments received in response to this notice will be placed in a public record. For that reason, commentors should not submit personal information (such as medical data or home address), Confidential Business Information, or information protected by copyright. Due to limited resources, acknowledgments will not be sent.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For workshop information, registration, and logistics, contact ERG, 110 Hartwell Avenue, Lexington, Massachusetts 02173; telephone: (781) 674-7374; facsimile: (781) 674-2906.

For information on the public comment period, contact Marilyn Brower, Risk Assessment Forum Staff; telephone: 202-564-3363; facsimile: 202-565-0062; or email: [brower.marilyn@epa.gov](mailto:brower.marilyn@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The U.S. EPA conducts risk assessments for an array of health effects that may result from exposure to environmental agents and that require an analysis of the relationship between exposure and health-related outcomes. The dose-response assessment can be approached as a two-step process, the first being the definition of a point of departure (POD) and the second extrapolation from the POD to low environmentally-relevant exposure levels. The benchmark dose (BMD) approach provides a more quantitative alternative to the first step in the dose-response assessment than the current no-observed-adverse-effect-