potential drinking water contaminants and recommendations by technical experts.

EPA recognized the need for a more robust and transparent process for identifying and narrowing potential contaminants for future CCLs and now plans to develop a new risk based priority setting process based upon consideration of the recommendations made by the National Research Council (NRC) in its 2001 report, ''Classifying Drinking Water Contaminants for Regulatory Consideration.'' The process is expected to allow the drinking water program to identify those contaminants that pose the greatest risk to persons served by public water supplies. The process will be utilized for selecting contaminants for future CCLs.

The NRC recommended that the CCL be developed in a two step process. Under the NRC-recommended approach, the ''universe'' of potential drinking water contaminants is identified by considering many possible categories and sources of contaminants. The first step involves narrowing down the ''universe'' to a preliminary CCL (PCCL) using screening criteria and expert judgment. The second step involves the use of a decision process and expert judgment to select high priority contaminants for CCL from the PCCL. The NRC-recommended decision process for step 2 involves use of a prototype classification approach based on predictive features and attributes of contaminants. The NRC also recommends using virulence factor activity relationships (VFAR) to identify microbiological contaminants. VFAR is analogous to quantitative structure activity relationships used for chemical contaminants. It relies on new genetic and proteomic analytical approaches to identify indicators or predictive factors of potentially virulent pathogens for inclusion on a CCL.

Small Systems Affordability Working Group

EPA recognizes the special challenges faced by small water systems and is committed to using the suite of tools and mechanisms provided under the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) amendments (including the small system affordability provisions of the Act) to help minimize the financial impact that new regulations will have on small drinking water systems. Small systems are being asked—in some cases for the first time—to grapple with a whole new set of public health challenges. In doing so, they face considerable financial challenges. In its FY 2002 Appropriations Report Language, Congress directed EPA to review the Agency's affordability criteria.

EPA currently uses an affordability threshold of 2.5% of median household income. EPA's national-level affordability criteria consist of two major components: an expenditure baseline and an affordability threshold. The expenditure baseline (derived from annual median household water bills) is subtracted from the affordability threshold (a share of median household income that EPA believes to be a reasonable upper limit for these water bills) to determine the expenditure margin (the maximum increase in household water bills that can be imposed by treatment and still be considered affordable). EPA compares the cost of treatment technologies against the available expenditure margin to determine if an affordable compliance technology can be identified. If EPA cannot identify an affordable compliance technology, then it attempts to identify a variance technology. Findings must be made at both the Federal and State level that compliance technologies are not affordable for small systems before a variance can be granted.

As part of the Agency's review of affordability, a number of areas will be explored. The Agency will evaluate alternatives to the median as the income level for the affordability threshold. The Agency will evaluate alternatives to using 2.5% as the income percentage for the affordability threshold. The Agency will evaluate methods to account for the cost of new rules. The Agency will investigate whether separate criteria should be developed for ground and surface water systems. The EPA will evaluate the impact of financial assistance programs on affordability. The Agency is also receptive to other approaches to reviewing the present affordability criteria.

Submitting Nominations

In view of the importance of these actions for the drinking water program, the Agency is seeking further public input on each of these important issues by establishing working groups of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC). Consistent with that commitment, EPA will work with the NDWAC to convene a panel of nationally recognized technical experts to study these issues further and is seeking nominations for these working groups through this notice.

The criteria for selecting working group members are that working group members are recognized experts in their fields; that working group members are as impartial and objective as possible; that working group members represent an array of backgrounds and perspectives (within their disciplines); that the working group members are available to participate fully in the review, which will be conducted over a relatively short time frame (*i.e.,* within approximately 4–5 months); and that the results of the review be made publicly available for comment. Working group members will be asked to attend a series of meetings (approximately three) over the course of 4–5 months, participate in the discussion of key issues and assumptions at these meetings, and review and finalize the products and outputs of the working group. The working group will make a recommendation to the full NDWAC. The NDWAC will, in turn, make a recommendation to EPA.

Nominations for both working groups should be submitted to EPA no later than July 5, 2002. Nominations for the CCL–2 Working Group should be submitted to Dr. Jitendra Saxena, Designated Federal Officer, NDWAC Working Group, EPA, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (4607M), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20460. Nominations for Small Systems Affordability Working Group should be submitted to Mr. Amit Kapadia, Designated Federal Officer, NDWAC Working Group at the same address. Given the delays associated with mail due to extra security, it is recommended that a copy of the nominations be sent by e-mail to *saxena.jitendra@epa.gov* and *kapadia.amit@epa.gov.* The Agency will not formally acknowledge or respond to nominations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Jitendra Saxena by e-mail or call (202) 564–5243, Mr. Amit Kapadia by e-mail or call (202) 564–4879.

Dated: June 13, 2002.

Cynthia C. Dougherty,

Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

[FR Doc. 02–15461 Filed 6–18–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–7233–8]

EPA Science Advisory Board; Human Health Research Strategy Review Panel; Request for Nominations

ACTION: Notice; request for nominations to serve on the Human Health Research Strategy Review Panel (HHRS Review Panel) of the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board (SAB).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (Agency, EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB) is announcing the formation of a panel to review the Agency's Human Health Research Strategy and the solicitation of nominations for qualified individuals to serve on this Panel. To establish this panel, the SAB is soliciting nominations to augment a pool of candidates now composed of its existing Environmental Health Committee (EHC) and its Integrated Human Exposure Committee (IHEC). The EPA Science Advisory Board was established to provide independent scientific and technical advice, consultation, and recommendations to the EPA Administrator on the technical bases for EPA regulations. In this sense, the Board functions as a technical peer review panel for the research strategy.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: —Additional information on this review can be obtained by contacting Mr. Thomas O. Miller, Designated Federal Officer, Human Health Research Strategy Review Panel, US EPA Science Advisory Board (1400A), Suite 6450CC, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone/voice mail at (202) 564–4558; fax at (202) 501–0582; or via e-mail at *miller.tom@epa.gov.*

Nomination information should be submitted via e-mail (preferred) to Ms. Diana Pozun, Management Assistant, EPA Science Advisory Board, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1400A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460, telephone (202) 564–4544; FAX (202) 501–0323, e-mail *pozun.diana@epa.gov.*

Additional information concerning the Science Advisory Board, its structure, function, and composition, may be found on the SAB Web site (*http://www.epa.gov/sab*) and in the Science Advisory Board FY2001 Annual Staff Report which is available from the SAB Publications Staff at (202) 564–4533, via fax at (202) 501–0256, or on the SAB Web site at *http://www.epa.gov/sab/annreport01.pdf.*

Nomination Procedures: The approved policy under which the EPA Science Advisory Board establishes review panels is described in a recent Commentary, EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Panel Formation Process: Immediate Steps to Improve Policies and Procedures: An SAB Commentary (EPA–SAB–EC–COM–002–003), which can be found on the SAB Web site at *www.epa.gov/sab/ecm02003.pdf.* Principles discussed in that document will govern the establishment of the HHRS Review Panel.

Any interested person or organization may nominate qualified individuals for membership on the HHRS Review Panel. Nominations, preferably in electronic format, should be submitted to Ms. Pozun at *pozun.diana@epa.gov.* Anyone unable to submit nominations in electronic format should send the information specified below to Ms. Pozun (address above) Nominations should arrive no later than July 5, 2002. The Agency will not necessarily formally acknowledge or respond to nominations.

Nominations must include the individual's name, occupation, position, qualifications to address the issue, and contact information (i.e., telephone number, fax number, mailing address, e-mail, and/or Web site). To be considered, all nominations must include a current biographical sketch (approximately one page in length), CV or resume (preferably electronic in MSWord or WordPerfect) providing information on the nominee's background, experience, and qualifications for this Panel. Detailed information on the nominator is not required, but the nominator's name, affiliation, and contact information is requested in order to permit the staff to contact the nominators with any questions and keep them informed of activities associated with this review. Names and affiliations of nominators for individuals on the ''Short List'' that the SAB intends to consider further for panel membership, will be included in the information made available to the public when the Short List is announced.

To improve the efficiency in processing of nominations the SAB requests that nominations be provided in the following manner:

(1) Send the nomination by e-mail to: *pozun.diana@epa.gov*

(2) Use one e-mail per person being nominated

(3) Please use ''Human Health Research Strategy Nomination'' in the subject field, followed by the last name of the candidate you are nominating. (For example, ''Human Health Research Strategy Nomination: Smith)

(4) Attach supporting information in MS Word or Wordperfect files ending in ''.doc'' or ''.wpd'', respectively

(5) In a separate file from the biographical sketch, CV or resume, please provide the following information in the order shown:

For the Nominating Individual:
First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Organizational Affiliation and Title: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Work Phone: _____
Work Fax: _____

For the Candidate being nominated:
First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Professional Title: _____
Department: _____
School or Unit: _____
University or Organization: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Work Phone: _____
Fax Work Phone: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Web site for CV (if one exists): _____

Nominator's Assessment of Expertise:

The following areas of expertise will be useful in this review. Please indicate the areas of expertise the candidate could contribute with a short statement explaining why this is the case:

1. Risk assessment and the application of the Agency's risk assessment guidelines;
2. Exposure measurement/assessment;
3. Dosimetry/mechanisms of action;
4. Computational toxicology;
5. Aggregate and cumulative risk;
6. Research into various toxicologic endpoints including carcinogenicity;
7. Molecular genetics;
8. Epidemiology;
9. Health effects in sensitive and susceptible population groups;
10. Uncertainty analysis; and
11. Public health outcomes
12. Others that nominators might feel to be appropriate

Evaluation Procedures: The SAB panel formation process, mentioned earlier in this notice, is described in an SAB Commentary, EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Panel Formation Process: Immediate Steps to Improve Policies and Procedures: An SAB Commentary (*http://www.epa.gov/sab/ecm02003.pdf*). This process guides the activity used by the SAB to gather and evaluate nominees and to select a panel having balanced membership. At the SAB, a balanced panel is characterized by inclusion of the necessary domains of knowledge, the relevant scientific perspectives (which, among other factors can be influenced by work history and affiliation), and the collective breadth of experience to address the charge adequately.

First, the process solicits nominations to the Panel from SAB members and consultants, external outreach to the public, and contact with the Agency itself to obtain a broad set of nominees to consider for membership. Second, the nominations received are combined and entered into a data base termed the ''WIDECAST.'' Third, a smaller subset (the ''Short List'') will be identified from

this larger group of nominees for more detailed consideration. The Short List includes the names of candidates, a short biographical sketch of each candidate, and the names of those who nominated the person. Fourth, the Short List is posted on the SAB Web site (*www.epa.gov/sab*), and public comments accepted on the individual's expertise, conflict-of-interest, questions on any perceived lack of impartiality of the person (as defined by federal regulation), as well as on the overall balance of technical views represented on the Panel.

Finally, the Panel members are selected by considering public reaction to the Short List candidates, information provided by candidates, and information on the background of each candidate which is gathered independently by SAB Staff. Criteria used in the evaluating of individual panelists include: (a) Expertise, knowledge, and experience (primary factors); (b) scientific credibility and impartiality; (c) skills working in committees and advisory panels; and (d) availability.

Panel members will be asked to attend at least one public face-to-face meeting and, probably, several public telephone conference call meetings over the anticipated 3-month course of the activity. The Executive Committee (EC) of the SAB will review the Panel's report in a public meeting and reach a judgment about its transmittal to the Administrator.

Background: The mission of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is to protect public health and safeguard the natural environment. Risk assessment is an integral part of this mission in that it identifies and characterizes environmentally related human health problems. The Human Health Research Strategy document presents a conceptual framework for future human health research by EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD). The Agency's research strategy outlines a core research effort to provide broader, more fundamental information that will improve understanding of problem-driven health risk issues encountered by the EPA's Program and Regional Offices. The document focuses on broad themes and general approaches. Implementation of an integrated research program on human health is described in greater detail in ORD's Multiyear Plan on Human Health Research which identifies the specific performance goals and the measures needed to achieve those goals over a 5 to 10 year period.

ORD's strategic research directions for Human Health include (1) research to improve the scientific foundation of human health risk assessment; and (2) research to enable evaluation of public health outcomes from environmental risk management decisions.

1. Research to Improve the Scientific Foundation of Human Health Risk Assessment. ORD's human health risk assessment program assumes that major uncertainties in risk assessment can be reduced by understanding and elucidating the fundamental determinants of exposure and dose and the basic biological changes that follow exposure to pollutants and which result in a toxic response. This research will provide the scientific knowledge and principles to improve the risk assessment for all human health endpoints, aggregate and cumulative risk, and risk to susceptible populations.

One component of this forward looking research focuses on Harmonizing Risk Assessment Approaches. This research addresses the differing approaches for the assessment of risk from cancer and noncancer health endpoints. The intent of this research is to develop a common set of principles and guidelines for drawing inferences about risk based on mechanistic information. Specific research objectives include: (i) The development of emerging technologies or methods to study mode or mechanism of action; (ii) provision of a framework for defining mode or mechanism of action; (iii) development of a basis for comparing risk across all health endpoints using mechanistic information; (iv) developing principles for the use of mechanistic data to select the most appropriate risk assessment model; and (v) development of principles for the use of mechanistic data to reduce or replace uncertainty factors in risk assessments, especially for inter- and intraspecies extrapolation.

Research on Aggregate and Cumulative Risk reflects the reality that humans are exposed to mixtures of pollutants from multiple sources. This research will provide the scientific support for decisions concerning exposure to a pollutant by multiple routes of exposure or to multiple pollutants having a similar mode of action. ORD will also develop approaches to study how people and communities are affected following exposure to multiple pollutants that may interact with other environmental stressors. Specific research objectives include: (i) Determining the best and most cost-effective ways to measure human exposures in all relevant media; (ii) developing exposure models and methods suitable for the EPA and the public to assess aggregate and cumulative risk; and (iii) providing the scientific basis to predict the interactive effects of pollutants in mixtures and the most appropriate approaches for combining effects and risks from pollutant mixtures.

Research on Susceptible and Highly-Exposed Subpopulations will focus on developing a scientific understanding of the biological basis for differing responsiveness of subpopulations within the general population. Specific research objectives include the following: (i) Identifying the key factors that contribute to variability in human exposure; (ii) improving the accuracy of dose estimation in the general population; (iii) identifying the biological basis underlying differential responsiveness of sensitive subpopulations of humans to pollutant exposure; and (iv) determining how exposure, dose and effect information can be incorporated into risk assessment methods to account for interindividual variability.

2. Research to Enable Evaluation of Public Health Outcomes from Risk Management Actions.

Generally, the EPA has not prepared retrospective evaluations to determine if the intended public health protection benefits were realized once an EPA decision had been in place for a period of time. With the advent of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) and calls for the EPA to stress and demonstrate outcome-oriented goals and measures of success, research is needed to enable evaluation of actual public health outcomes from risk management actions. Estimating public health benefits of EPA regulatory decisions and rule making, or in a more general sense evaluating public health outcomes from risk management actions, will involve a number of disciplines grounded in both the physical and social sciences, and increasingly must take into account the economic and behavioral aspects of human decision-making.

The long term goal of ORD's research on public health outcomes is to provide the scientific understanding and tools for use in evaluating the effectiveness of public health outcomes resulting from risk management actions. Research will focus on identifying, discovering, or developing the most effective methods and models; determining how they can be integrated into a decision-making framework to assist Federal, State, and local decision-makers in evaluating changes in public health as a result of risk management actions; and developing a framework to quantify such changes accurately. Specific research objectives include: (i)

Establishing the linkage between sources, environmental concentrations, exposure, adverse effects or disease, and effectiveness so that a change in a human health outcomes subsequent to a risk management action can be determined by measuring or modeling any one of these linked steps; and (ii) improving methods and models by which others can measure or model changes in public health outcomes following various risk management actions.

Charge: The current Charge that the Agency is asking the SAB to implement in this review follows. The final Charge may change some as a result of ongoing discussions between the Agency and the Panel. Updates will be posted on the SAB Web site: *www.epa.gov/sab.*

ORD is requesting a review by the SAB of the Human Health Research Strategy, including the following points:

a. Does the document establish the appropriate direction and research areas (*i.e.,* aggregate-cumulative risk, harmonization, susceptible subpopulations, effectiveness of public health outcomes) for a long-term, core research program on human health risk assessment?

b. Will the research that is described reduce uncertainty in the risk assessment process?

c. For the research areas selected, does the strategy provide a clear framework for a multi-disciplinary research program?

d. Does the strategy provide a logical approach for framing research to evaluate the impact of risk management decisions on human health?

Review Document Availability—The EPA research strategy for human health is documented in the Human Health Research Strategy, U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development, Internal Review Draft, May 2002. Those members of the public who wish to view the Agency draft document as they consider who might be appropriate to nominate for this panel should obtain or read it on the EPA ORD NHEERL Web site at *www.epa.gov/nheerl/humanhealth.* The public may also contact Dr. Hugh Tilson, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory by voice telephone at (919) 541–4607; fax at (919) 685–3252; or mail at Dr. Hugh Tilson, Associate Laboratory Director, NHEERL, Mail Code B30502, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711.

Dated: June 11, 2002.

A. Robert Flaak,

Acting Deputy Director, EPA Science Advisory Board.

[FR Doc. 02–15459 Filed 6–19–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPTS–2002–0018; FRL–7181–1]

Access to Confidential Business Information by C-Technologies.net LLC and INADEV Corporation

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA has authorized Logistics Management Institute's (LMI) subcontractors C-Technologies.net LLC, of Chantilly, VA, and INADEV Corporation, of Fairfax, VA, access to information which has been submitted to EPA under sections 4, 5, 8, and 12 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Some of the information may be claimed or determined to be Confidential Business Information (CBI).

DATES: Access to the confidential data submitted to EPA under sections 4, 5, 8, and 12 of TSCA occurred as a result of an approved waiver dated May 8, 2002, which requested granting C-Technologies.net LLC and INADEV Corporation immediate access to sections 4, 5, 8 and 12 of TSCA CBI.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Barbara Cunningham, Acting Director, Environmental Assistance Division (7408M), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (202) 554–1404; e-mail address: TSCA-Hotline@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Does this Notice Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general. This action may, however, be of interest to those persons who are or may be required to conduct testing of chemical substances under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Since other entities may also be interested, the Agency has not attempted to describe all the specific entities that may be affected by this action. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

II. How Can I Get Additional Information, Including Copies of this Document or Other Related Documents?

You may obtain electronic copies of this document, and certain other related documents that might be available electronically, from the EPA Internet Home Page at http://www.epa.gov/. To access this document, on the Home Page select ''Laws and Regulations,'' ''Regulations and Proposed Rules,'' and then look up the entry for this document under the ''**Federal Register**—Environmental Documents.'' You can also go directly to the **Federal Register** listings at http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/.

III. What Action is the Agency Taking?

Under contract number GS–35F–4041G, C-Technologies.net LLC, of 14170 Newbrook Drive, Suite 201, Chantilly, VA, and INADEV Corporation, of 2812 Old Lee Highway, Suite 205, Fairfax, VA, will assist the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) in correcting problems resulting from the migration of several notes applications to new hardware and to retain performance and data integrity.

In accordance with 40 CFR 2.306(j), EPA has determined that under EPA contract number GS–35F–4041G, C-Technologies.net LLC and INADEV Corporation will require access to CBI submitted to EPA under sections 4, 5, 8, and 12 of TSCA, to perform successfully the duties specified under the contract.

C-Technologies.net LLC and INADEV Corporation personnel were given access to information submitted to EPA under sections 4, 5, 8, and 12 of TSCA. Some of the information may be claimed or determined to be CBI.

Access to the confidential data submitted to EPA under sections 4, 5, 8, and 12 of TSCA occurred as a result of an approved waiver dated May 8, 2002, which requested granting C-Technologies.net LLC and INADEV Corporation immediate access to sections 4, 5, 8, and 12 of TSCA CBI. This waiver was necessary to allow C-Technologies.net LLC and INADEV Corporation to assist the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) in correcting problems resulting from the migration of several Notes applications to new hardware and to retain performance and data integrity.

EPA is issuing this notice to inform all submitters of information under sections 4, 5, 8, and 12 of TSCA, that the Agency may provide C-Technologies.net LLC and INADEV Corporation access to these CBI materials on a need-to-know basis only. All access to TSCA CBI under this contract will take place at EPA Headquarters.