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**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 02-24195 Filed 9-23-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP97-288-009 through 024]

#### Transwestern Pipeline Company; Notice of Technical Conference

September 18, 2002.

Take notice that on August 16, 2002, Transwestern Pipeline Company (Transwestern) filed a request for a conference to discuss Transwestern's proposal for addressing certain issues in these dockets.

Take notice that a technical conference to discuss the various issues raised by Transwestern's filing will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2002 at 10:00 am, in a room to be designated at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

All interested parties and Staff are permitted to attend.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 02-24194 Filed 9-23-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7381-5]

### U.S.-Mexico Border 2012 Program

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of the availability of the draft document for the U.S.-Mexico Border 2012 Program.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing

the availability of the draft document, "Border 2012: U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program" (Border Plan or Border 2012). Border 2012 is a 10-year, binational, results-oriented, environmental program for the U.S.-Mexico border region, which has been developed by the EPA, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (Mexico's Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources), Secretaría de Salud (Mexico's Secretaría of Health), the U.S. border Tribes, and the environmental agencies from each of the ten U.S.-Mexico border states. The proposed Border 2012 Program is the latest multi-year, binational planning effort to be implemented under the La Paz Agreement and succeeds Border XXI, a five-year program that ended in 2000. The mission of Border 2012 is to protect public health and the environment in the U.S.-Mexico border region, consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

EPA is requesting comments from interested parties and border stakeholders on the draft Border Plan. **DATES:** Written comments must be submitted no later than November 22, 2002. Written comments can be submitted by mail or fax to either of EPA's Border Offices. Comments can also be submitted on EPA's U.S.-Mexico Border Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder>. In addition, EPA will be accepting comments at public meetings to be held throughout the border region during October and November 2002. The draft document, "Border 2012: U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program", is posted in English and Spanish on EPA's web page at: <http://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder>. In addition, English/Spanish copies of the draft document can be requested by contacting either of the EPA Border Offices:

EPA El Paso Border Office: 4050 Rio Bravo, Suite 100, El Paso, Texas 79902. Telephone (915) 533-7273; Toll-free (800) 334-0741; FAX (915) 533-2327. Office Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. C.S.T.

EPA San Diego Border Office: 610 West Ash St., Suite 905, San Diego, CA 92101. Telephone (619) 235-4765; Toll-free (800) 334-0741; FAX (619) 235-4771. Office Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. P.S.T.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** EPA El Paso Border Office at (915) 533-7273 or (800) 334-0741 or EPA San Diego Border Office at (619) 235-4765 or (800) 334-0741.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

## I. Background

For decades, the U.S. and Mexico have collaborated on efforts to protect the environment and health of border communities. The most recent binational effort was the Border XXI Program, which was initiated in 1996 with a five-year plan for addressing the most challenging environmental and environmentally-related health problems in the region. The formal foundation for these binational efforts is the La Paz Agreement (<http://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/2002/efpaz.htm>) signed by Presidents De la Madrid and Reagan in 1983. The agreement is implemented through multi-year binational programs such as Border XXI and the new Border 2012 program.

Although most of the Border XXI projects were implemented at the local level, its organizational structure emphasized border-wide coordination and planning. Nine border-wide workgroups—each focused on a particular environmental program, such as air quality or hazardous waste management—coordinated the efforts of various federal, state, tribal and local governmental activities in the border area. The new Border 2012 Program builds upon the successes achieved under Border XXI while also establishing a regionally-focused border plan to facilitate environmental priority setting and planning at the regional and local levels.

## II. A New Approach

The proposed Border 2012 emphasizes a bottom-up approach, anticipating that local decision-making, priority-setting and project implementation will best address environmental issues in the border region. Border 2012 will emphasize concrete measurable results, public participation, transparency, and timely access to environmental information.

The Border 2012 Program proposes some key changes from Border XXI including: (1) New mission statement; (2) integration of pollution prevention and environmental information into the activities of all coordinating bodies; and (3) new organizational structure that focuses on regional workgroups to facilitate regional- and local-level planning and priority setting.

The major features of the Border 2012 program are the following: the coordinating bodies, goals and measurable objectives, and reporting results to the public.

## III. Coordinating Bodies

Border 2012 is organized around coordinating bodies. These coordinating