

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-7457-7]

**A National Agenda for the Environment and the Aging: Setting Priorities for Research and Education To Address Environmental Hazards That Threaten the Health of Older Persons**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public listening sessions and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In October 2002 EPA launched an Aging Initiative to study the effects of environmental health hazards on older persons and examine the impact that a rapidly aging population will have on the environment. The Initiative will also identify model programs that will provide opportunities for older persons to volunteer in their communities to reduce environmental hazards and protect the environment for future generations. EPA is seeking public comment through Friday, May 16, 2003 to assure that the final agenda includes input from the broadest base of expertise including Federal, State, local and tribal governments, public and private organizations, professional health, aging and environmental associations, academia, business and volunteer organizations, and others including older Americans and their families. EPA encourages comments from all those interested in addressing environmental health hazards that affect the health of older persons.

In addition, six public listening sessions will be held this Spring to gather input for the National Agenda. The meetings are open to the public. Pre-registration is required due to the limited seating capacity at each location. When registering to attend or present comments during the public listening sessions, individuals requiring special accommodations should note their needs so that appropriate arrangements can be made. In addition, every effort will be made to ensure that non-English speaking persons can participate in public meetings and through written comments.

**Public Listening Sessions**

**DATES:**

	Registration deadline*
1. Thursday, April 3, 2003, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Tampa, FL.	March 26.
2. Tuesday, April 8, 2003, 1:30-3:30 p.m., San Antonio, TX.	April 1.

	Registration deadline*
3. Tuesday, April 15, 2003, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Iowa City, IA.	April 8.
4. Wednesday, April 23, 2003, 2-4 p.m., Pittsburgh, PA.	April 16.
5. Tuesday, April 29, 2003, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Los Angeles, CA.	April 22.
6. Wednesday, May 7, 2003, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Baltimore, MD.	April 29.

\*Pre-registration is required.

**ADDRESSES:**

1. *Tampa* Auditorium, University of South Florida College of Public Health, 13201 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard, Tampa, Florida
2. *San Antonio* University Auditorium, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, 7703 Floyd Curl Drive, San Antonio, Texas
3. *Iowa City* Second Floor Ballroom, Iowa Memorial Union, the University of Iowa, Corner of Jefferson and Madison Streets, Iowa City, Iowa
4. *Pittsburgh* Pennsylvania Room, First Floor, Pittsburgh Athletic Association, 4215 Fifth Avenue (Oakland area), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
5. *Los Angeles* Grand Horizon Room, 3rd Floor, Covell Commons, Sunset Village on the UCLA campus, Los Angeles, California
6. *Baltimore* Auditorium, School of Nursing, University of Maryland Baltimore, 655 West Lombard Street (corner of Lombard and Penn), Baltimore, Maryland

For additional information, contact Kathy Sykes, EPA's Aging Initiative Coordinator, at 202-564-2188 or by email: [aging.info@epa.gov](mailto:aging.info@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** EPA's Aging Initiative is working with various partners on the development of a National Agenda on the Environment and the Aging

1. *Tampa* University of South Florida; West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging
2. *San Antonio* University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio; Bexar County Area Agency on Aging
3. *Iowa City* University of Iowa College of Public Health and The Center on Aging; The Heritage Agency
4. *Pittsburgh* University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health; Allegheny Area Agency on Aging
5. *Los Angeles* University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Graduate School of Public Health, UCLA Center on Aging, City of Los Angeles Department of Aging; Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging

6. *Baltimore* University of Maryland Baltimore School of Medicine and Center for Research on Aging, University of Maryland Baltimore School of Nursing

At the beginning of each public listening session an EPA official will describe the process that will be used to develop the National Agenda on the Environment and the Aging. Public comments will follow from pre-registered speakers who wish to contribute to the agenda by offering brief comments on one or all of the three priority areas described below. Each presentation will be limited to three minutes and the written or preferably typed statement of the comments must be provided in advance. Please fax your statement to (202) 564-2733 no later than the registration deadline for the session you have selected (see above for listing of deadlines). There is no page limitation on written comments.

If time allows, members of the audience will have an opportunity to provide comments. Pre-registration is required for attendance at each session and for providing comments due to limited seating and time. To register to attend or participate, go to <http://www.epa.gov/aging> and click on the "Public Listening Sessions" side bar and follow instructions to register to attend or to speak. Deadlines to pre-register for each session are provided.

**National Agenda for the Environment and the Aging**

*Setting Priorities for Research and Education to Address Environmental Hazards That Threaten the Health of Older Persons*

In October 2002 EPA launched an Aging Initiative to study the effects of environmental health hazards on older persons and examine the impact that a rapidly aging population will have on the environment. The Initiative will also identify model programs that will provide opportunities for older persons to volunteer in their communities to reduce environmental hazards and protect the environment for future generations. EPA is seeking public comment through Friday, May 16, 2003, to assure that the final agenda includes input from the broadest base of expertise including Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, public and private organizations, professional health, aging and environmental associations, academia, business and volunteer organizations, and other stakeholders, including older Americans and their families. EPA encourages comments from all those interested in contributing to the agenda. The agenda

will be developed through an open, participatory process. The National Agenda will be composed of three parts:

- (1) Identifying research gaps in environmental health;
- (2) Preparing for an aging society; and
- (3) Encouraging older adults to volunteer to address environmental hazards.

### **I. Identifying Research Gaps in Environmental Health**

#### *Strategy To Address Environmental Hazards That Threaten the Health of Older Persons: Research and Educational Priorities*

The National Agenda for the Environment and the Aging will lay out a strategy that combines research and educational programs that promote preventive actions to address environmental health hazards. One fundamental question is: How do environmental hazards affect older persons differently from younger persons? Understanding the biology underlying differing age-related responses can inform a scientific rationale for decisions on how to appropriately incorporate the differential sensitivity of those who are aging into environmental risk assessment, decisions and actions.

EPA's effort to develop a national agenda to address environmental issues that affect the health and well-being of the nation's older persons has been advanced by a workshop on the "Differential Susceptibility and Exposure of Older Persons to Environmental Hazards" convened by the National Academy of Sciences in December 2002. At that meeting, experts discussed priority issues for the National Agenda on the Environment and the Aging. Experts focused on exposures to environmental hazards found in drinking water, indoor and outdoor air, and food residues that may have health effects including respiratory and cardiopulmonary disease, neurotoxicity, infectious disease and cancer.

EPA invites public comments on environmental hazards that may affect the health of older persons in states and local communities. Among questions which may be considered are:

- What specific environmental exposures in your community particularly affect the health of older persons?
- Which health conditions specific to older adults may increase their susceptibility to chemical toxicants?
- Which lifestyle factors of older adults may increase the exposure to environmental hazards?

- What steps may individuals and communities take to reduce the potential environmental health risks that older adults may face?

### **II. Preparing for an Aging Society**

#### *Impact of an Aging Population on the Environment*

The EPA invites comments on the extent to which an aging population may affect the environment. The nation's demographics will have changed dramatically by 2030: the U.S. population over 65 years of age is expected to double. The largest cohort born in U.S. history (76 million Americans were born between 1946 and 1964) begins to turn 65 in 2011 and will markedly influence the quality of life for both older persons and young people. The National Agenda will focus on the interface between older persons and their environment.

As an increasing number of adults approach retirement age, migration may substantially increase to areas characterized by temperate climates, lower population and traffic density, and better environmental quality. These areas may be sparsely populated and ecologically diverse regions. To ensure harmony between the needs of this growing population and preserving important natural resources, it is important to have the tools available for regional and landscape planning. The EPA invites comments on the extent to which an aging population has unique needs with respect to housing, transportation, health care, recreation, and other quality of life issues, and how these needs may affect the environment. Issues which may be considered include:

- What can city, county and regional planners do to meet the needs of today's older adults and prepare for the anticipated increase in the number of retirees and at the same time enhance preservation of natural resources for recreation, wildlife, water, air and land quality?
- Can you identify unique resource needs and utilization patterns of older adults that may generate novel ecological pressures?
- What steps can individual baby boomers and older adults take to not only reduce potential hazards to the environment but also preserve and enhance the quality of the environment for themselves and future generations?

### **III. Encouraging Older Adults to Volunteer to Reduce Environmental Hazards**

#### *Opportunities for Older Persons To Enhance the Environment and Their Health*

The National Agenda will not only identify strategies to protect the quality of life for older persons from environmental hazards, but also suggest ways to engage the nation's older persons in programs and strategies designed to enhance the environment for all generations.

Many older Americans contribute their time, energy and expertise to protect their environment and educate their communities about environmental hazards to citizens and threats to natural resources. The EPA intends to encourage further involvement and expand opportunities for older persons to volunteer in programs designed to lessen environmental hazards. Programs or activities that are of interest include activities that increase awareness of environmental hazards, and preserve the quality of the environment for today and tomorrow's citizens. The EPA welcomes comments on encouraging older adults to volunteer to reduce environmental hazards in their communities. Among the questions to which the EPA invites comments are the following:

- Which volunteer programs that address environmental hazards in your community warrant examination for possible replication in other communities?
- What incentives are needed to encourage older persons to volunteer their time and ideas to protect the environment, reduce environmental hazards and enhance the health of and the environment for people of all ages?
- In an effort to raise awareness of environmental factors important to all citizens, how can older persons serve as models of good practice and mentors for younger generations about environmental hazards found in the community?
- In your community or state, what intergenerational environmental projects have been successful in improving the health of children or older persons?
- What potential barriers exist to volunteering in your community to reduce environmental hazards?

Public comments will be accepted until Friday, May 16, 2003.

(1) To pre-register to attend or speak at a public listening session, please go to EPA's Aging Initiative Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/aging>.

(2) To submit written comments, please send them by mail or hand deliver to: EPA's Aging Initiative, Mail Code 1107A, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Room 2512 Ariel Rios North, Washington, DC 20460, or

(3) Fax comments to: National Agenda for the Environment and the Aging (202) 564-2733, or

(4) E-mail comments to: [aging.info@epa.gov](mailto:aging.info@epa.gov).

Dated: February 26, 2003.

**Joanne Rodman,**

*Acting Director, Office of Children's Health Protection.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7457-6]

### EPA Science Advisory Board, Environmental Health Committee, Notification of an Upcoming Meeting and Request for Information on the Proposed Panel for the Review of the Supplemental Guidance for Assessing Cancer Susceptibility From Early-life Exposure to Carcinogens (SGACS)

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Request for Information on the Panel and Notification of an Upcoming Meeting.

**DATES:** April 24, 2003—Teleconference meeting of the Environmental Health Committee Submissions concerning the proposed panel are due by March 18, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board (1400A), Suite 6450P EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460-0001 (zip code for FedEx—20004).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Suhair Shallal, Designated Federal Officer, by telephone/voice mail at (202) 564-4566, by fax at (202) 501-0582; or via e-mail at [shallal.suhair@epa.gov](mailto:shallal.suhair@epa.gov). General information concerning the EPA Science Advisory Board can be found on the EPA SAB Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. *Background on the EPA Science Advisory Board:* The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Agency) Science Advisory Board (SAB) is providing notification of an upcoming meeting and requesting information on the proposed SCAGS review panel.

The SAB was established by 42 U.S.C. 4365 to provide independent scientific

and technical advice, consultation, and recommendations to the EPA Administrator on the technical basis for Agency positions and regulations. This panel will comply with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and all appropriate SAB procedural policies. Those selected to serve on the SCAGS review panel will review the draft materials identified in this notice and respond to the appropriate charge questions. Upon completion, the panel's report will be submitted to the SAB executive committee for final approval.

2. *Background on this advisory activity:* Pursuant to a request by EPA's Office of Research and Development, the SAB will conduct a peer review of the draft document entitled Supplemental Guidance for Assessing Cancer Susceptibility from Early-Life Exposure to Carcinogens. In a separate FR Notice, EPA announced the availability of, and the opportunity to comment on the above mentioned document.

The SAB was selected to lead this review due to its experience in reviewing various documents associated with the EPA's Draft Cancer Guidelines and the relevance of the expertise of its members to this review. In 1996, EPA published for public comment proposed revisions to EPA's 1986 Guidelines for Carcinogen Risk Assessment (61 FR 17960, April 23, 1996). Since the 1996 proposal, EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) has conducted three scientific peer reviews. In February 1997, the Science Advisory Board's Environmental Health Committee (SAB EHC) was asked to review the proposed revisions to the Agency's first cancer guidelines issued in 1986 (<http://www.epa.gov/sab/pdf/ehc9710.pdf>). In January 1999, the EHC met again to consider selected sections of the draft Guidelines that were revised to address recommendations from the public and the earlier SAB review (1997) of the Guideline (<http://www.epa.gov/sab/pdf/ec15.pdf>). A third meeting took place in July 1999 to provide advice and comment to the EPA on issues related to applying the provisions of EPA's proposed revised Cancer Risk Assessment Guidelines to children (<http://www.epa.gov/sab/pdf/ec0016.pdf>).

Availability of the Meeting Materials—The materials for this review are available from the Office of Research and Development's National Center for Environmental Assessment, Risk Assessment Forum Web site, located at: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/raf/index.cfm>. For questions and information concerning the materials, please contact Dr. William P. Wood,

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW., Washington, DC 20460; tel. (202) 564-3361, or e-mail: [risk.forum@epa.gov](mailto:risk.forum@epa.gov).

3. *Meeting via Teleconference of the Environmental Health Committee—April 24, 2003:* Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that the Environmental Health Committee of the U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) will meet on Thursday, April 24, 2003 via teleconference at 3 p.m.–5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) to begin the review of the EPA's Office of Research and Development draft document entitled, Supplemental Guidance for Assessing Cancer Susceptibility From Early-Life Exposure to Carcinogens (SGACS). This document provides a possible approach for assessing cancer susceptibility from early-life exposure to carcinogens. The purpose of the teleconference is: (a) To discuss the charge and the adequacy of the review materials provided to the SGACS Review Panel; (b) to clarify any questions and issues relating to the charge and the review materials; (c) to discuss specific charge assignments to the SGACS Review Panelists; and (d) to clarify specific points of interest raised by the Panelists in preparation for the face-to-face meeting. All times noted are Eastern Standard Time. The meeting is 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 or consultations are normally available from the originating EPA office and are not available from the SAB Office—information concerning availability of documents generated by the SAB and the relevant Program Office is included above.

The meeting will begin on April 24, 2003 at 3 p.m. EST and adjourn no later than 5 p.m. EST that day. The meeting will be held at EPA Headquarters, Washington, DC, Ariel Rios North, room 6013. For further information concerning this meeting, please contact the individuals listed at the beginning of this **Federal Register** notice. A copy of the draft agenda for the meeting will be posted on the SAB Web site ([www.epa.gov/sab](http://www.epa.gov/sab)) (under the AGENDAS subheading) approximately 10 days before the meeting. Information concerning a subsequent face to face meeting will be forthcoming in a separate **Federal Register** notice.

Providing Oral or Written Comments at SAB Meetings—It is the policy of the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) to accept written public comments of any