

Purpose and Need for Action—The NY and NJ Harbor Navigation Study (HNS), prepared by the USACE in 1999, projected a substantial increase in the amount of containerized cargo destined for the Port over the period to 2060. The ability of existing Port facilities to handle future cargo volumes as forecast in the HNS indicates that the Port facilities and associated transportation network may need to make future additional improvements, beyond those currently planned, to efficiently manage projected cargo over that period. Other studies concerning the Port, prepared by various federal, state and local stakeholders, have identified plans to increase Port capacity and have highlighted a number of environmental issues of concern to the Port and regional area. The CPIP-Plan will consider the Port region as a complete system, and will seek to develop a port-wide plan that is economically efficient and environmentally sustainable, and considers environmental restoration efforts in the region; the CPIP-EIS will evaluate potential impacts of various Federal, state, and local port and transportation improvement strategies to achieve this.

Study Area—Study areas for the analysis of impacts of port and transportation improvement alternatives at existing, and potentially new, port facilities will encompass the port sites' premises and vicinities, and, at a minimum, the Port District.

Alternatives—The CPIP-EIS will evaluate a variety of alternatives, including, but not limited to: the no-action alternative; facility productivity and efficiency enhancements and improvements; facility expansion; new terminal facilities sited either in uplands or through placement of fill in waters and wetlands; and combinations of these alternatives. Consideration of alternatives will include identification and evaluation of improvements to the transportation infrastructure serving the Port. The CPIP-EIS will analyze direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of each alternative.

Scoping—Comments should focus on social, economic, or environmental issues to be evaluated; and on identifying the alternatives that may achieve both economic and environmental goals.

Public Involvement—Activities may include stakeholder and community meetings, open houses with technical staff, workgroups/workshops, a web site, and project fact sheets and newsletters.

Issues for Analysis—The CPIP-EIS will evaluate potential changes to the social, economic, and physical

environment that would result with the defined project alternatives, including: land use and zoning; socioeconomic; parklands; historic and archeological resources; aesthetics; traffic and transportation; air quality; noise; navigation; floodplains and hydrology; topography, geology, and soils; wetlands and special aquatic sites; wildlife and waterfowl refuges; water quality; groundwater and sole source aquifers; aquatic and terrestrial ecology; endangered and threatened species; resource contamination and hazardous waste sites; and environmental justice. Impacts will be evaluated both for the construction period and for the long-term operation period of each alternative. Measures to mitigate any significant adverse impacts will be identified.

Responsible Official—

Dated: March 11, 2003.

Anne Norton Miller,
Director, OFA.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7485-1]

National and Governmental Advisory Committees to the U.S. Representative to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) gives notice of a meeting of the National Advisory Committee (NAC) and Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) to the U.S. Representative to the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC).

The National and Governmental Advisory Committees advise the Administrator of the EPA in her capacity as the U.S. Representative to the Council of the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation. The Committees are authorized under Articles 17 and 18 of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC), North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act, Pub. L. 103-182 and as directed by Executive Order 12915, entitled "Federal Implementation of the North American Agreement on Environmental

Cooperation." The Committees are responsible for providing advice to the U.S. Representative on a wide range of strategic, scientific, technological, regulatory and economic issues related to implementation and further elaboration of the NAAEC. The National Advisory Committee consists of 12 representatives of environmental groups and non-governmental organizations, business and industry, and educational institutions. The Governmental Advisory Committee consists of 12 representatives from state, local and tribal governments.

The Committees are meeting to develop recommendations to the Administrator of EPA on priority issues that the U.S. should address during the Commission for Environmental Cooperation Council of Ministers Session in June, 2003.

DATES: The Committees will meet on Thursday, May 8, 2003 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Friday, May 9, 2003 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Washington Terrace Hotel, 1515 Rhode Island Avenue NW., Washington, DC. The meeting is open to the public, with limited seating on a first-come, first-served basis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Oscar Carrillo, Designated Federal Officer, U.S. EPA, Office of Cooperative Environmental Management, at (202) 233-0072.

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

Dated: April 9, 2003.

Mark Joyce,

Acting Designated Federal Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-9623 Filed 4-17-03; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7485-2]

Arsenic Treatment Demonstrations

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) plans to conduct the second phase of a demonstration program on the treatment (reduction and/or removal) of arsenic in drinking water. The notice on the first phase of the program was published on