

Assessment Forum's RfD/RfC Technical Panel and its recommendations for improvements in the process of deriving reference values, including setting less than lifetime as well as chronic reference values. It discusses revisions to the overall framework for the derivation of reference values that broaden and expand the information considered in setting reference values. The document is a review, not guidance, and it evaluates the current state-of-the-art for hazard characterization with a focus on protection of potentially sensitive subpopulations. The report make a number of recommendations that should be considered in the implementation of changes in the current process and/or development of needed guidance. The Technical Panel views the RfD/RfC process as one that should be continually evolving as new information becomes available and new scientific and risk assessment approaches are developed. This does not mean that current RfDs or RfCs are invalid, but these new scientific issues should be included in the process of re-evaluating current reference values. As a follow-up to the recommendation for deriving less than lifetime reference values, the report includes a review of current testing guideline protocols to determine what data are collected that can be used in setting these reference values. The Technical Panel has provided specific recommendations for deriving reference values and the development of guidance in some cases and more general conclusions and recommendations in others. Case studies are included to illustrate the recommendations of the Technical Panel.

Dated: May 15, 2003.

Peter W. Preuss,

Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7501-3]

Southern Solvents Superfund Site; Notice of Proposed Settlement

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of proposed settlement.

SUMMARY: The United States Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to enter into an Administrative Order on Consent pursuant to section 122(h)(1) of the

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), as amended regarding the Southern Solvents Superfund Site located in Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida. This Agreement is made and entered into by EPA and by Southern Solvents, Inc., ("Settling Parties"). EPA will consider public comments on the proposed settlement until June 20, 2003.

EPA may withdraw from or modify the proposed settlement should such comments disclose facts or considerations which indicate the proposed settlement in appropriate, improper, or inadequate. Copies of the proposed settlement are available from: Ms. Paula V. Batchelor, U.S. EPA, Region 4, Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center, Waste Management Division, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303. (404) 562-8887.

Written comments may be submitted to Ms. Batchelor within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of this publication.

Dated: April 28, 2003.

Archie Lee,

Chief, CERCLA Program Services Branch, Waste Management Division.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7501-6]

Proposed Reissuance of a General NPDES Permit for Facilities Related to Oil and Gas Extraction on the North Slope of the Brooks Range, AK (Permit Number AKG-33-0000 Formerly AKG-31-0000)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of proposed reissuance of a general permit.

SUMMARY: On April 10, 2002, the general permit regulating activities related to the extraction of oil and gas on the North Slope of the Brooks Range in the state of Alaska expired. This proposed reissuance of a general permit is intended to regulate activities related to the extraction of oil and gas on the North Slope of the Brooks Range in the state of Alaska. The proposed general permit would cover the same discharges as the previous general permit: domestic wastewater discharges, gravel pit dewatering, construction dewatering, and hydrostatic test water. The proposed reissuance also includes two new outfall designations for the

discharge of storm water from industrial activities and discharges of treated effluent from mobile spill response units. When issued, the proposed permit will establish effluent limitations, standards, prohibitions and other conditions on discharges from covered facilities. These conditions are based on existing national effluent guidelines, the state of Alaska's Water Quality Standards and material contained in the administrative record. A description of the basis for the conditions and requirements of the proposed general permit is given in the fact sheet. This is also notice of EPA's issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) coverage under this GP for the new source facility, BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc.'s Badami facility covered by NPDES permit AKG-31-0001 which will be reauthorized with the number AKG-33-0001.

DATES: Interested persons may submit comments on the proposed reissuance of the general permit to EPA, Region 10 at the address below. Comments must be postmarked by July 7, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the proposed general permit reissuance should be sent to the attention of the Director, Office of Water, 1200 Sixth Avenue OW-130, Seattle, Washington 98101. Comments may also be submitted electronically to godsey.cindi@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Copies of the proposed general permit and Fact Sheet are available upon request. Requests may be made to Audrey Washington at (206) 553-0523 or to Cindi Godsey at (907) 271-6561. Requests may also be electronically mailed to: washington.audrey@epa.gov or godsey.cindi@epa.gov.

The proposed general permit and Fact Sheet may also be found on the EPA Region 10 Web site at www.epa.gov/r10earth/water.htm then click on NPDES permits under Programs and draft permits under EPA Region 10 Information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Executive Order 12866:* The Office of Management and Budget has exempted this action from the review requirements of Executive Order 12866 pursuant to section 6 of that order.

Regulatory Flexibility Act: After review of the facts presented in the notice printed above, I hereby certify pursuant to the provision of 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this proposed general NPDES permit will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. Moreover, the permit reduces a significant administrative burden on regulated sources.