

Dated: September 29, 2003.

Angelo Carasea,

Designated Federal Officer, NACEPT
Superfund Subcommittee.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPT-2003-0034; FRL-7328-9]

Draft Instructions for Reporting for the 2006 Partial Updating of the TSCA Chemical Inventory Database; Request for Comment and Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA is convening a public meeting to receive comments from persons reporting data required by the Inventory Update Rule on the draft instructions for reporting in 2006. The instructions have been revised in response to amendments to 40 CFR part 710 promulgated on January 7, 2003, which substantially modify the information which must be reported for the partial updating of the TSCA Chemical Inventory Database beginning in 2006. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The public meeting will commence at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 15, 2003, and end at approximately 3 p.m. on the same day.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the Le Meridien Chicago, 521 North Rush Street, at Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611. This meeting is being held in conjunction with the 2003 TSCA Fundamentals Workshop sponsored by the Synthetic Organic Chemicals Manufacturing Association. Information on this workshop is available at www.socma.com/Conferences/TSCAWorkshop.htm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information contact: Barbara Cunningham, Acting Director, Environmental Assistance Division (7408M), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001; telephone number: (202) 554-1404; e-mail address: TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov.

For technical information contact: Fredric C. Arnold, Economics, Exposure, and Technology Division (7406M), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001; telephone

number: (202) 564-8521; e-mail address: arnold.fred@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

You may be potentially affected by this action if you manufacture chemical substances currently subject to reporting under the Inventory Update Rule (IUR) as amended on January 7, 2003, and codified as 40 CFR part 710. Persons who process chemical substances but who do not manufacture or import chemical substances are not required to comply with the requirements of 40 CFR part 710. Potentially affected entities may include, but are not limited to:

Chemical manufacturers and importers currently subject to IUR reporting, including manufacturers and importers of inorganic chemical substances (NAICS codes 325, 32411).

This listing is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide for readers regarding entities likely to be affected by this action. Other types of entities not listed in this unit could also be affected. The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes have been provided to assist you and others in determining whether this action might apply to certain entities. To determine whether you or your business may be affected by this action, you should carefully examine the applicability provisions at 40 CFR 710.48. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the technical contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

B. How Can I Get Copies of this Document and Other Related Information?

1. *Docket.* EPA has established an official public docket for this action under docket ID number OPPT-2003-0034. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to this action. Although, a part of the official docket, the public docket does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the EPA Docket Center, Rm. B102-Reading Room, EPA West, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The EPA Docket Center

Reading Room telephone number is (202) 566-1744 and the telephone number for the OPPT Docket, which is located in EPA Docket Center, is (202) 566-0280.

2. *Electronic access.* You may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the EPA Internet under the "**Federal Register**" listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA Dockets at: <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Although, not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified in Unit I.B.1. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket ID number.

II. Background

EPA is convening a public meeting to receive comments on the Instructions for Reporting for the 2006 Partial Updating of the TSCA Chemical Substance Inventory. EPA is required by section 8(b) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to compile and update an inventory of chemical substances manufactured or imported in the United States. Every 4 years, manufacturers (including importers) of certain chemical substances on the Chemical Substances Inventory have been required to report data specified in the TSCA section 8(a) Inventory Update Rule (IUR), 40 CFR part 710. Past updates included information on the chemical's production volume, site-limited status, and plant site information. Amendments to the IUR promulgated on January 7, 2003 (68 FR 848) (FRL-6767-4) expanded the data reported on certain chemicals to assist EPA and others in screening potential exposures and risks resulting from manufacturing, processing, and use of TSCA chemical substances. At the same time, EPA amended the IUR regulations to increase the production volume threshold which triggers reporting requirements from 10,000 pounds per year to 25,000 pounds per year and established a new higher threshold of 300,000 pounds per year above which manufacturers must report additional information on down-stream processing and use of their chemical substances. The 2003 amendments to the IUR also revoked the exemption from reporting for inorganic chemical substances,

provided a partial exemption from reporting of processing and use information for chemical substances of low current interest, and continued the current exemption from reporting for polymers, microorganisms, and naturally occurring chemical substances. These changes modify requirements for information collected in calendar year 2005 and submitted in 2006 and thereafter. The public meeting may be of interest to persons currently reporting under the IUR and to manufacturers of inorganic chemical substances.

The public meeting will include a series of presentations by representatives of EPA on the instructions for reporting for the 2006 partial updating of the TSCA chemical inventory database. Presentation topics will include reporting requirements, instructions for completing the reporting form, how to assert confidentiality claims, and how to submit completed reports to EPA. After each presentation, persons attending the public meeting will be invited to comment on the clarity, completeness, and usefulness of the instructions. Comments may also be submitted in writing following the public meeting; comments should be submitted within 30 days after the meeting to receive timely attention. The purpose of the public meeting is to receive input for improving the instructions; subsequent meetings are planned for 2004 to provide training to persons who must report in 2006 under the IUR.

Persons planning to attend the public meeting are encouraged to register with the technical contact person identified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Persons registering for the meeting will receive by e-mail a copy of the draft instructions prior to the meeting. Prior registration is not required to attend the focus group meeting. There is no charge for attending this public meeting.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, chemicals, reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: September 25, 2003.

Margaret Schneider,

Acting Director, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics.

[FR Doc. 03-25275 Filed 10-2-03; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7565-1]

Agency Policy and Guidance: Draft Small Local Governments Compliance Assistance Policy

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today seeks public comment on proposed revisions to its 1995 *Policy on Flexible State Enforcement Responses to Small Community Violations* (the *Small Communities Policy*). The *Small Communities Policy* encourages states to enhance protection of public health and the environment by providing comprehensive environmental compliance assistance to the 72% of American communities that are home to 2,500 or fewer permanent residents. If the actions of the state to provide compliance assistance and the actions of the small community to achieve compliance stay within the parameters of the *Small Communities Policy*, EPA will generally defer to the state's decision to reduce or waive the noncompliance penalty that EPA guidance would normally require the state to assess for the small community's violations. During the course of the compliance assistance, the small community must work in good faith with the state to: (1) Evaluate the small community's compliance status and identify all of its environmental violations; (2) develop a priority-based schedule for the small community to achieve compliance with all applicable environmental requirements as soon as practicable; and (3) build the technical, managerial, and financial capacity the small community needs to achieve and sustain comprehensive environmental compliance. The central tenets of the *Small Communities Policy* are:

1. Good faith efforts; 2. enforceable commitments; and 3. comprehensive compliance with all environmental requirements.

The 1995 *Small Communities Policy* can be downloaded from the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/incentives/smallcommunity/scpolicy.pdf>.

EPA now proposes a number of revisions intended to extend the scope of the *Small Communities Policy*. The policy will be retitled the *Small Local Governments Compliance Assistance Policy* to clarify EPA's intent that the policy benefit units of local government.

To make the benefits of the *Small Local Governments Compliance Assistance Policy* available to a greater number of small local governments, EPA proposes to:

1. Defer to states' decisions to reduce or waive the normal noncompliance penalties of local governments with 3,300 or fewer permanent residents—if the actions of the state to provide compliance assistance and the actions of the local government to achieve compliance are consistent with the parameters established by the *Small Local Governments Compliance Assistance Policy*.

2. Defer to states' decisions to reduce or waive the normal noncompliance penalties of local governments with between 3,301 and 10,000 permanent residents—if a state has followed guidelines in the *Small Local Governments Compliance Assistance Policy* to determine that the technical, managerial, and financial capacity of the local government is so limited that the local government is unlikely to achieve and sustain comprehensive environmental compliance without the state's assistance; and if the actions of the state to provide compliance assistance and the actions of the local government to achieve compliance are consistent with the parameters established by the policy.

To make the benefits of the *Small Local Governments Compliance Assistance Policy* available in a wider range of circumstances, EPA proposes to defer to states' decisions to reduce or waive the normal noncompliance penalties for eligible local governments that enter into an enforceable agreement to: 1. correct known violations; and 2. develop and implement Environmental Management Systems for their governmental operations. EPA also proposes to defer to states' decisions to reduce or waive the normal noncompliance penalties for eligible local governments with between 3,301 and 10,000 permanent residents that enter into enforceable agreements either to achieve comprehensive environmental compliance or to develop and implement environmental management systems within the "fenceline" of a subset of their government operations.

EPA also seeks public comment on whether and how the Agency could implement a policy similar to the *Small Local Governments Compliance Assistance Policy* for its compliance assistance and enforcement activities where EPA directly implements a program, where EPA retains primary enforcement authority, or where EPA takes action after consulting with a State