

public comment on the issues addressed in the two documents and on the guidance's implementation through this **Federal Register** notice. This public comment opportunity will be available until December 1, 2010.

EPA has committed to determining whether any changes are required to the interim guidance by April 1, 2011 and issuing revised final guidance if necessary. EPA's evaluation of comments on this guidance will also be informed by the result of the SAB reviews of EPA's draft science reports, as discussed further below.

EPA is committed to ensuring that its decisions are based on the best available science. To further this commitment, the guidance incorporates independently reviewed scientific information on the impacts of Appalachian surface coal mining on the aquatic environment. In addition to the existing peer-reviewed science outlined in the memoranda, EPA also references two draft reports produced by EPA's Office of Research and Development. The first draft report, *The Effects of Mountaintop Mines and Valley Fills on Aquatic Ecosystems of the Central Appalachian Coalfields*, assesses the state of the science on the environmental impacts of mountaintop mines and valley fills on streams in the Central Appalachian Coalfields. The second draft report, *A Field-based Aquatic Life Benchmark for Conductivity in Central Appalachian Streams*, adapts the standard U.S. EPA methodology for deriving ambient water quality criteria to field data, and derives benchmarks for dissolved salts as measured by conductivity in Central Appalachian streams using data from West Virginia and Kentucky. These scientific reports, publicly released on April 1 and described in a separate **Federal Register** notice also published today, are available for public comment for 60 days. The drafts can be accessed at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea> and are available for public comment through EPA Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-ORD-2009-0934. As outlined in that notice, comments provided on the two draft scientific reports will be forwarded to an expert panel convened by EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) in advance of the SAB's independent peer review of these reports during the summer of 2010.

For purposes of this **Federal Register** notice, EPA in particular seeks comment on the following elements of its guidance memoranda, as well as on the implementation of this guidance between now and December 1, 2010:

- Whether the guidance achieves its objective of providing further clarity

and improved protection for the environment and human health through EPA's review of draft or proposed permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act and permit applications under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for Appalachian surface coal mining operations.

- Whether additional scientific information is available to inform EPA's authorities under the Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Environmental Justice Executive Order (E.O. 12898).

- Whether EPA's implementation of its guidance in reviewing state Section 402 permits and permit applications under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act has been effective in achieving the goals of providing additional clarity and enhanced environmental and human health protection.

- Whether there are additional examples of best practices in terms of mine design, site and materials management, or water treatment systems, consistent with the objectives of improved environmental protection, greater clarity, and the best-available science, that should be considered.

- Whether additional relevant and appropriate data, studies, knowledge of studies, or informal observations should be considered as part of EPA's application of best-available science and its authorities under the Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the Environmental Justice Executive Order (E.O. 12898), to Appalachian surface coal mining.

The record will remain open for comment on the guidance until December 1, 2010. All public comments will be fully considered along with the results of the SAB review in reaching a decision on whether changes are required to the current guidance by April 1, 2011.

Dated: April 6, 2010.

Peter S. Silva,

Assistant Administrator for Water.

Dated: April 6, 2010.

Cynthia Giles,

Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

[FR Doc. 2010-8303 Filed 4-9-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Notices

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, April 13, 2010, at 10 a.m.

PLACE: 999 E Street, NW., Washington, DC.

STATUS: This meeting will be closed to the public.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: Compliance matters pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437g.

Audits conducted pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437g, 438(b), and Title 26, U.S.C. Matters concerning participation in civil actions or proceedings or arbitration. Internal personnel rules and procedures or matters affecting a particular employee.

* * * * *

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, April 14, 2010, at 11 a.m.

PLACE: 999 E Street, NW., Washington, DC (Ninth Floor)

STATUS: This hearing will be open to the public.

AUDIT HEARING: Biden for President, Inc.

Individuals who plan to attend and require special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact Darlene Harris, Acting Commission Secretary, at (202) 694-1040, at least 72 hours prior to the hearing date.

PERSON TO CONTACT FOR INFORMATION: Judith Ingram, Press Officer, *Telephone:* (202) 694-1220.

Darlene Harris,

Acting Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 2010-8185 Filed 4-9-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6715-01-M

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The applications also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also