

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-9195-4; Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-ORD-2010-0709]

A Method to Assess Climate-Relevant Decisions: Application in the Chesapeake Bay

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The EPA is announcing a 60-day public comment period for the draft document titled, "A Method to Assess Climate-Relevant Decision: Application in the Chesapeake Bay" (EPA/600/R-10/096a). The draft document was prepared by the National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) within EPA's Office of Research and Development.

In the 2010 Executive Order (EO) Strategy entitled, *Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*, EPA has committed to "minimize the vulnerability of the Chesapeake Bay watershed to adverse impacts from climate change." The EO Strategy also commits EPA to ensuring that "TMDL allocations account for climate change impacts [by working] in conjunction with the states to conduct an analysis by 2017 to consider accounting for uncertainties of climate change in TMDL allocations." To accomplish this, it is necessary to understand the rates at which conditions are changing and are projected to change in the future; how various factors, such as land-use changes, interact with climate change impacts; and the likely consequences for water quality, habitats, fish and wildlife and communities. This draft report presents a systematic approach for evaluating these factors and practices for their relative potential effectiveness in ameliorating climate changes impacts. The report also includes the results of applying this approach in a pilot assessment of management practices in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The practices evaluated could be used for both nutrient and sediment reductions, and also to ameliorate the effects of climate change on water quality that will ultimately inform the 2017 reassessment for Bay restoration.

The public comment period and the external peer-review workshop, which will be scheduled at a later date and announced in the **Federal Register**, are separate processes that provide opportunities for all interested parties to comment on the document. EPA intends

to forward public comments that are submitted in accordance with this notice to the external peer-review panel prior to the meeting for their consideration. When finalizing the draft document, EPA intends to consider any public comments that EPA receives in accordance with this notice.

EPA is releasing this draft document solely for the purpose of pre-dissemination peer review under applicable information quality guidelines. This document has not been formally disseminated by EPA. It does not represent and should not be construed to represent any Agency policy or determination.

DATES: The 60-day public comment period begins August 31, 2010, and ends November 1, 2010. Technical comments should be in writing and must be received by EPA by November 1, 2010.

ADDRESSES: The draft "A Method To Assess Climate-Relevant Decisions: Application in the Chesapeake Bay" is available via the Internet on the National Center for Environmental Assessment's home page under the Recent Additions and the Data and Publications menus at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea>. A limited number of paper copies are available from the Information Management Team (IMT), NCEA; telephone: 703-347-8561; facsimile: 703-347-8691. If you are requesting a paper copy, please provide your name, mailing address, and the document title, "A Method To Assess Climate-Relevant Decisions: Application in the Chesapeake Bay."

Comments may be submitted electronically via <http://www.regulations.gov>, by mail, by facsimile, or by hand delivery/courier. Please follow the detailed instructions as provided in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the public comment period, contact the Office of Environmental Information Docket; telephone: 202-566-1752; facsimile: 202-566-1753; or e-mail: ORD.Docket@epa.gov.

If you need technical information about the document, please contact Susan Julius, National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA); telephone: 703-347-8619; facsimile: 703-347-8694; e-mail: julius.susan@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Summary of Information About the Project/Document

Climate change is a global phenomenon that is affecting natural and human systems in all parts of the

world. Some of the decisions and actions taken to manage these systems are likely to be affected by climate change and may likewise affect the vulnerability of the managed resource or ecosystem to climate change. The goal of this study is to formalize an approach to inventory and analyze management decisions in order to produce useful information targeted toward effective adaptation to climate change. The approach uses as its starting point ongoing planning processes and decisions geared toward achieving environmental management goals, and then collects information on decisions and prioritizes them according to specific attributes. The pilot study described in this report applies this approach and examines its usefulness to decision makers.

The major steps of the approach are to (1) select a study area and compile a list of key decisions (2) develop criteria for evaluating the climate-relevance of decisions; (3) apply the criteria to select decisions that are potentially sensitive to climate change; (4) solicit expert judgment regarding those selections (and refine the selections accordingly); and (5) test alternative weighting schemes for prioritizing decisions most in need of decision support or additional research based on the selected attributes.

II. How To Submit Technical Comments to the Docket at www.regulations.gov

Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-ORD 2010-0709, by one of the following methods:

- <http://www.regulations.gov>: Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
- E-mail: ORD.Docket@epa.gov.
- Fax: 202-566-1753.
- Mail: Office of Environmental Information (OEI) Docket (Mail Code: 2822T), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460. The phone number is 202-566-1752.

- *Hand Delivery:* The OEI Docket is located in the EPA Headquarters Docket Center, Room 3334 EPA West Building, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is 202-566-1744. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

If you provide comments by mail or hand delivery, please submit three

copies of the comments. For attachments, provide an index, number pages consecutively with the comments, and submit an unbound original and three copies.

Instructions: Direct your comments to Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-ORD-2010-0709. Please ensure that your comments are submitted within the specified comment period. Comments received after the closing date will be marked "late," and may only be considered if time permits. It is EPA's policy to include all comments it receives in the public docket without change and to make the comments available online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided, unless a comment includes information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected through <http://www.regulations.gov> or e-mail. The <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. If you send an e-mail comment directly to EPA without going through <http://www.regulations.gov>, your e-mail address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available on the Internet. If you submit an electronic comment, EPA recommends that you include your name and other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD-ROM you submit. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment. Electronic files should avoid the use of special characters, any form of encryption, and be free of any defects or viruses. For additional information about EPA's public docket visit the EPA Docket Center homepage at <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/dockets.htm>.

Docket: Documents in the docket are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, e.g., CBI or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other materials, such as copyrighted material, are publicly available only in hard copy. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically in <http://www.regulations.gov> or in hard copy at the OEI Docket in the EPA Headquarters Docket Center.

Dated: August 25, 2010.

Rebecca Clark,

Acting Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-9195-3]

Issuance of NPDES General Permits for Wastewater Lagoon Systems Located in Indian Country in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of issuance of NPDES general permits.

SUMMARY: EPA Region 8 is hereby giving notice of its reissuance of five National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permits for wastewater lagoon systems that are located in Indian country in the States of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming and the issuance of the NPDES general permit for wastewater lagoon systems that are located in Indian country in the State of Colorado and that are treating primarily domestic wastewater. The general permits are grouped geographically by State, with the permit coverage being for specified Indian reservations in the State; any land held in trust by the United States for an Indian Tribe; and any other areas which are Indian country within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. 1151. The permits for the States of MT, ND, SD, UT, and WY are being reissued and replace permits that were issued in 2004. Those permits expired August 16, 2009, and have been administratively extended. The permit for the State of Colorado is being issued for the first time. The effective date of these general permits is September 14, 2010.

The NPDES permit number and the area covered by that general permit are listed below by State:

Colorado: COG589### This permit covers the Southern Ute Reservation and the Ute Mountain Reservation, including those portions of the Ute Mountain Reservation located in New Mexico and Utah; any land within the State of Colorado held in trust by the United States for an Indian Tribe; and any other areas within the State of Colorado which are Indian country within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. 1151.

Montana: MTG589### This permit covers the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana; the Crow Indian

Reservation; the Flathead Reservation; the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana; the Fort Peck Indian Reservation; the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation; the Rocky Boy's Reservation; any land within the State of Montana held in trust by the United States for an Indian Tribe; and any other areas within the State of Montana which are Indian country within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. 1151.

North Dakota: NDG589### This permit covers the Fort Berthold Reservation; the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation; the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation; the Turtle Mountain Reservation; any land within the State of North Dakota held in trust by the United States for an Indian Tribe; and any other areas within the State of North Dakota which are Indian country within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. 1151.

This permit includes that portion of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and associated Indian country located within the State of South Dakota. It does not include any land held in trust by the United States for the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation or any other Indian country associated with that Tribe, which is covered under general permit SDG589###.

South Dakota: SDG589### This permit covers the Cheyenne River Reservation; Crow Creek Reservation; the Flandreau Santee Sioux Indian Reservation; the Lower Brule Reservation; the Pine Ridge Reservation (including the entire Reservation, which is located in both South Dakota and Nebraska); the Rosebud Indian Reservation; the Yankton Sioux Reservation; any land within the State of South Dakota held in trust by the United States for an Indian Tribe; and any other areas within the State of South Dakota which are Indian country within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. 1151.

This permit includes any land in the State of North Dakota that is held in trust by the United States for the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation or any other Indian country associated with that Tribe. It does not include the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation or any associated Indian country, which is covered under general permit NDG589###.

Utah: UTG589### This permit covers the Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Nation of Utah Reservation (Washakie); the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Reservation; the Skull Valley Indian Reservation; Indian country lands within the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation; any land within the State of Utah held in trust by the United States for an Indian Tribe; and any other