Environmental Protection Agency

[FR–9215–6]

Science Advisory Board Staff Office; Request for Nominations of Experts To Serve on the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Air Monitoring and Methods Subcommittee (AMMS)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office is requesting public nominations of experts to serve on the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) Air Monitoring and Methods Subcommittee (AMMS).

DATES: Nominations should be submitted by November 10, 2010, per instructions below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any member of the public wishing further information regarding this Notice and Request for Nominations may contact Dr. Holly Stallworth, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), SAB Staff Office, by telephone/voice mail at (202) 564–2073; by fax at (202) 565–2098 or via e-mail at stallworth.holly@epa.gov. General information concerning the CASAC can be found on the EPA CASAC Web site at http://www.epa.gov/casac.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: The Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) was established under section 109(d)(2) of the Clean Air Act (CAA or Act) (42 U.S.C. 7409) as an independent scientific advisory committee. CASAC provides advice, information and recommendations on the scientific and technical aspects of air quality criteria and national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) under sections 108 and 109 of the Act.

Section 109(d)(1) of the CAA requires that the Agency periodically review and revise, as appropriate, the air quality criteria and the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for the six “criteria” air pollutants. EPA’s Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) requests independent review and advice from CASAC on the following subjects:

- Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx)-Sulfur Oxides (SOx) Monitoring and Network Design—A review of candidate methods for assessing levels of N and S deposition; specifically constituents such as particulate sulfate, total oxidized nitrogen (NOx), sulfur dioxide (SO2), and ammonia gas and ammonia ion combined (NHx) in the assessment of an Atmospheric Acidification Potential Index, and the potential network design for a monitoring system in support of a secondary NOx/NOx NAAQS.
- Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations (PAMS): Network Re-engineering—Advice on potential revisions to the technical and regulatory aspects of the PAMS program; including changes to required measurements and associated network design requirements and a review of appropriate technology, sampling frequency, and overall program objectives in the context of the most recently revised ozone NAAQS and changes to atmospheric chemistry that have occurred over the past 10–15 years in the most significantly impacted areas.
- Network Design Guidance Development for Near-road Ambient Air Monitoring Requirements: Multi-pollutant Focus—Review of the progress of a pilot monitoring study including site selection, planned measurements, and timeline; review of EPA’s Near-road Network Design Technical Assistance Document (first Draft) including assessment of procedures for identifying maximum site location(s) including dispersion modeling and evaluation of potential biasing factors and recommended measurements for near-road compliance network; and a review of the role of alternative technology such as passive measurement in compliance and research monitoring studies.
- Methods for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)—Advice on potential improvements to TO–15 with particular emphasis on improving the characterization of acrolein; review method revisions for canister cleaning procedures, preparation of calibration standards, performance testing protocols, and subsequent changes to air quality system reporting procedures; advice on improvements for TO–13A methodology for compounds such as naphthalene, other polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and branched PAHs; and advice on role of new technology in characterizing volatile and semi-volatile compounds on a real-time or near real-time basis.

In response to OAQPS request, the Science Advisory Board Staff Office is requesting public nominations of scientific and technical experts to form a new subcommittee of the CASAC to provide advice on the four advisory topics as described above. This subcommittee, the CASAC Air Monitoring and Methods Subcommittee (AMMS) may in the future address additional monitoring and methods issues related to other criteria pollutants and hazardous air pollutants. The AMMS will provide independent advice to the Administrator through the CASAC, a chartered Federal Advisory Committee, under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended (5 U.S.C. App.). The AMMS will comply with the provisions of FACA and all appropriate SAB Staff Office procedural policies.

Request for Nominations: The SAB Staff Office is seeking nominations of recognized, national experts in one or more of the following disciplines: Atmospheric sciences, dispersion modeling, atmospheric chemistry, ecosystem modeling, aquatic chemistry, environmental science and engineering, risk assessment, and statistical analysis. In particular, we seek nominees with knowledge of ambient air monitoring methods for criteria pollutants and air toxics, ambient air network design, environmental data analysis, quality assurance, dispersion modeling, emission inventories for point and mobile sources, source apportionment techniques, atmospheric chemistry, meteorology, and assessment of ecosystem impacts.

Process and Deadline for Submitting Nominations: Any interested person or organization may nominate individuals qualified in the area of science as described above to be considered for appointment to augment the Council for this review. Candidates also may nominate themselves. Nominations should be submitted in electronic format (which is preferred over hard copy) following the instructions for “Nominating Experts to Advisory Panels and Ad Hoc Committees Being Formed” http://www.epa.gov/sab provided on the SAB Web site. The form can be accessed through the “Nomination of Experts” link on the blue navigational bar on the SAB Web site at http://www.epa.gov/casac. To receive full consideration, nominations should include all of the information requested, and should be submitted in time to arrive no later than November 10, 2010. EPA values and welcomes diversity. In an effort to obtain nominations of diverse
criteria to be used in evaluation of an individual Committee member include: (a) Scientific and/or technical expertise, knowledge, and experience (primary factors); (b) absence of financial conflicts of interest; (c) scientific credibility and impartiality; (d) availability and willingness to serve; (e) ability to work constructively and effectively in committees; and (f) for the Committee as a whole, diversity of scientific expertise and viewpoints. Prospective candidates will be required to fill-out the “Confidential Financial Disclosure Form for Special Government Employees Serving on Federal Advisory Committees at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency” (EPA Form 3110–48). This confidential form allows Government officials to determine whether there is a statutory conflict between that person’s public responsibilities (which includes membership on an EPA Federal Advisory Committee) and private interests and activities, or the appearance of a lack of impartiality, as defined by Federal regulation. Ethics information, including EPA Form 3110–48, is available on the SAB Web site at http://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/Web/ethics?OpenDocument. Dated: October 14, 2010.

Vanessa T. Vu, Director, EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office.

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FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

RIN 3052–AC64

Joint and Several Liability Reallocation Agreement

AGENCY: Farm Credit Administration.

ACTION: Notice of approval of the draft joint and several liability reallocation agreement.

SUMMARY: The Farm Credit Administration (FCA or we) is announcing that it has given approval of a Joint and Several Liability Reallocation Agreement (Agreement) to be entered into by all of the banks (System Banks) of the Farm Credit System (Farm Credit or System) and the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation (Funding Corporation). The Agreement is designed to establish a procedure for non-defaulting banks to pay maturing System-wide debt on behalf of defaulting banks prior to a statutory joint and several call by the FCA.

FAR FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Wilson, Financial Analyst, Office of Regulatory Policy, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, VA 22102–5090, (703) 883–4204, TTY (703) 883–4434, or Rebecca S. Orlich, Senior Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, VA 22102–5090, (703) 883–4020, TTY (703) 883–4020.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FCA published the draft Agreement in the Federal Register on August 18, 2010 (75 FR 51061) with a request for public comment. The draft Agreement had a 30-day comment period that ended on September 17, 2010. See 75 FR 51061 for the text of the entire Agreement, along with our preamble describing the background of the Agreement and providing other information. We received no public comments on the Agreement.

The Agreement is a voluntary agreement by the System Banks and the Funding Corporation that uses a debt-based formula to allocate payments of non-defaulting banks should a System bank default on a maturing insured consolidated or System-wide debt obligation and the amount of the default exceeds the amount available in the Farm Credit Insurance Fund to pay defaulted insured debt obligations. The parties to the draft Agreement submitted it to the FCA for approval under § 627.2750(h) of our regulations and also requested the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation (FCSIC) to provide an expression of non-objection to the Agreement. The FCSIC insures consolidated and System-wide obligations using funds in the Farm Credit Insurance Fund. The Agreement will terminate if the FCA withdraws its approval, and the FCA retains full authority and responsibility to invoke statutory joint and several calls as prescribed under section 4.4(a)(2) and (d) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended (Act).1 The FCA and the FCSIC are not parties to the Agreement.

The System Banks and Funding Corporation are also making conforming amendments to the Market Access Agreement (MAA) by adding three new sections to it. The conforming amendments are merely to ensure that provisions in the MAA do not prevent necessary payments under the Agreement. The FCA will publish the conforming MAA amendments in a separate Federal Register document. The FCA believes that holders of System-wide debt obligations are unlikely to be harmed by this Agreement. The Agreement could create

1 12 U.S.C. 2155(a)(2) and (d).