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By direction of the Commission.

Issued: December 15, 2016.

Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2016-30970 Filed 12-22-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-9957-34-OA]

Meetings of the Local Government Advisory Committee and the Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS) will meet via teleconference on Friday, January 13, 2017, at 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (ET). The Subcommittee will discuss the LGAC Biannual Report, and other environmental and public health issues affecting small communities. This is an open meeting and all interested persons are invited to participate. The Subcommittee will hear comments from the public between 11:40 a.m.–11:55 a.m. on January 13, 2017. Individuals or organizations wishing to address the Subcommittee will be allowed a maximum of five minutes to present their point of view. Also, written comments should be submitted electronically to eargle.frances@epa.gov. Please contact the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) at the number listed below to schedule a time on the agenda. Time will be allotted on a first-come first-serve basis, and the total period for comments may be extended if the number of requests for presentations requires it.

The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) will meet via teleconference on Friday, January 13, 2017, 12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m. (ET). The Committee will discuss

recommendations of the subcommittee and LGAC workgroups including a draft LGAC Biannual Report; and environmental and public health issues. This is an open meeting and all interested persons are invited to participate. The Committee will hear comments from the public between 12:45 p.m.–1:00 p.m. (ET) on Friday, January 13, 2017. Individuals or organizations wishing to address the Committee will be allowed a maximum of five minutes to present their point of view. Also, written comments should be submitted electronically to eargle.frances@epa.gov. Please contact the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) at the number listed below to schedule a time on the agenda. Time will be allotted on a first-come first-serve basis, and the total period for comments may be extended if the number of requests for presentations requires it.

ADDRESSES: EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee meetings will be held via teleconference. Meeting summaries will be available after the meeting online at www.epa.gov/ocir/scas_lgac/lgac_index.htm and can be obtained by written request to the DFO.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) contact Frances Eargle at (202) 564-3115 or email at eargle.frances@epa.gov.

Information Services for Those with Disabilities: For information on access or services for individuals with disabilities, please contact Frances Eargle at (202) 564-3115 or eargle.frances@epa.gov. To request accommodation of a disability, please request it 10 days prior to the meeting, to give EPA as much time as possible to process your request.

Dated: December 16, 2016.

Jack Bowles,

Director, State and Local Relations, EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations.

[FR Doc. 2016-31036 Filed 12-22-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-OW-2016-0353; FRL 9957-26-OW]

Draft Field-Based Methods for Developing Aquatic Life Criteria for Specific Conductivity

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the availability of Draft Field-Based Methods for Developing Aquatic Life Criteria for Specific Conductivity for public comment. Elevated ionic concentration measured as specific conductivity has been shown to negatively impact aquatic life in a range of freshwater resources. Once finalized, states and authorized tribes located in any region of the country may use the methods to develop field-based conductivity criteria for flowing waters. This document does not impose binding water quality criteria on any state, but instead provides methods to assist states and tribes that seek to develop such criteria for adoption into their water quality standards. The draft document provides a scientific assessment of ecological effects and is not a regulation. Following closure of this 60-day public comment period, EPA will consider the comments, revise the document, as appropriate, and then publish a final document that will provide methods for states and authorized tribes that they may use to develop water quality standards.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 21, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2016-0353, to the *Federal eRulemaking Portal*: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or withdrawn. EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.*, on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <http://www2.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Colleen Flaherty, Health and Ecological Criteria Division (Mail Code 4304T), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington,

DC 20460; telephone: (202) 564-5939; or email: flaherty.colleen@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. How can I get copies of this document and other related information?

1. *Docket:* All documents in the docket are listed in the 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 material, such as copyrighted material, will be publicly available only in hard copy. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically in www.regulations.gov or in hard copy at the Water Docket, EPA/DC, EPA West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave. NW., Washington, DC. The 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, and the telephone number for the Water Docket is (202) 566-2426. For additional information about EPA's public docket, visit EPA Docket Center homepage at <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/dockets.htm>.

II. Information on the Draft Field-Based Methods for Developing Aquatic Life Criteria for Specific Conductivity

EPA has developed a set of draft methods that states and authorized tribes may use to derive field-based ecoregional ambient aquatic life criteria for ionic mixtures measured as specific conductivity, a measurement of ionic concentration, in flowing waters. Elevated ionic concentration measured as specific conductivity has been shown to impact aquatic life in a range of freshwater resources. Different mixtures of ions that increase specific conductivity are associated with natural and anthropogenic sources.

EPA's draft methods provide flexible approaches for developing science-based conductivity criteria for flowing waters that reflect ecoregional- or state-specific factors. Once final, states and authorized tribes located in any region of the country may use the methods to develop field-based conductivity criteria for flowing waters. The document does not impose binding water quality criteria on any state, but instead provides methods to assist states and tribes that seek to develop such criteria for adoption into their water quality standards. The draft document provides

a scientific assessment of ecological effects and is not a regulation.

EPA's draft methods are based on effects observed in streams with different levels of specific conductivity and take into account natural variation in background specific conductivity and the aquatic species adapted to it. The draft document describes how to derive protective field-based aquatic life criteria for specific conductivity, including how to estimate a criterion continuous concentration for chronic exposures, how to estimate a maximum exposure concentration protective of acute toxicity, how to assess geographic applicability and potential confounding factors, and how to determine duration and frequency parameters.

EPA is also providing four case studies to illustrate how states and tribes may use the draft field-based methods to develop criteria in ecoregions with different background ionic concentrations measured as specific conductivity and demonstrate how to assess the applicability of criteria developed for one ecoregion to a different ecoregion. The case studies use field data to demonstrate how to apply the methods to derive example criteria for specific conductivity for flowing waters dominated by sulfate and bicarbonate salts but not for flowing waters dominated by chloride salts.

EPA typically relies on laboratory toxicity test data for surrogate species as defined in the Agency's *Guidelines for Deriving Numerical National Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Organisms and Their Uses* (1985) for aquatic life criteria development. The draft field-based methods for specific conductivity were adapted to be consistent with the Agency's traditional approach to derive aquatic life criteria. The draft field-based methods rely on geographically referenced, paired observations of specific conductivity and the presence and absence or abundance of freshwater benthic macroinvertebrate genera from wadeable perennial streams. An analysis of data for fish from a composite of case study ecoregions demonstrates that the example criteria based on macroinvertebrates are also protective of fish.

This document underwent an internal EPA review and two independent contractor-led external peer reviews.

III. Solicitation of Scientific Views

EPA is soliciting additional scientific views, data, and information regarding the science and technical approach used in the derivation of the draft field-based methods. EPA is also soliciting suggestions from the public for

additional ecoregional case studies for future consideration.

Dated: December 16, 2016.

Joel Beauvais,

Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water.

[FR Doc. 2016-31049 Filed 12-22-16; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-9030-9]

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7146 or <http://www.epa.gov/nepa>. Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) Filed 12/12/2016 Through 12/16/2016 Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

Notice

Section 309(a) of the Clean Air Act requires that EPA make public its comments on EISs issued by other Federal agencies. EPA's comment letters on EISs are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/eisdata.html>.

EIS No. 20160309, Final, BOEM, AK, Cook Inlet Planning Area Oil and Gas Lease Sale 244, Review Period Ends: 01/23/2017, Contact: Sharon Randall 907-334-5200

EIS No. 20160310, Final, FRA, NAT, NEC FUTURE: A Rail Investment Plan for the Northeast Corridor Tier 1, Review Period Ends: 01/31/2017, Contact: Rebecca Reyes-Alicea 212-668-2282

EIS No. 20160311, Draft, USACE, NE, Missouri River Recovery Management Plan, Comment Period Ends: 02/24/2017, Contact: Aaron Quinn 402-995-2669

Dated: December 20, 2016.

Dawn Roberts,

Management Analyst, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 2016-31046 Filed 12-22-16; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[MB Docket No. 16-357; FCC 16-153]

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AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.