

“Environmental Test Methods and Guidelines.”

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Any member of the public wishing to submit written comments should contact Robert B. Jaeger at the address or the phone number given above to be sure that the meetings are still scheduled and to confirm the Panel’s agenda. Interested persons are permitted to file written statements before the meetings. To the extent that time permits and upon advanced written request to the Designated Federal Official, interested persons may be permitted by the chairman of the Scientific Advisory Panel to present oral statements at the meetings. There is no limit on written comments for consideration by the Panel, but oral statements before the Panel are limited to approximately 5 minutes. Since oral statements will be permitted only as time permits, the Agency urges the public to submit written comments in lieu of oral presentations. Persons wishing to make oral and/or written statements should notify the Designated Federal Official and submit twenty copies of a summary no later than May 20, 1996, in order to ensure sufficient time for appropriate consideration by the Panel.

A public record has been established for this notice under docket number “OPP-00433” (including comments and data submitted electronically as described below). A public version of this record, including printed, paper versions of electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as CBI, is available for inspection from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The public record is located in Rm. 1132, Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at:

opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

The official record for this notice, as well as the public version, as described above will be kept in paper form. Accordingly, EPA will transfer all comments received electronically into printed, paper form as they are received and will place the paper copies in the official record which will also include all comments submitted directly in writing. The official record is the paper record maintained at the address in

“ADDRESSES” at the beginning of this document.

Copies of the Panel’s report of their recommendations will be available 10 to 15 working days after the meetings and may be obtained by contacting the Public Response and Program Resources Branch, at the address or telephone number given above.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Test guidelines.

Dated: April 23, 1996.

Daniel M. Barolo,
Director, Office of Pesticide Programs.
[FR Doc. 96-10805 Filed 4-30-96; 8:45 am]
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[FRL-5465-8]

Public Workshop on Privatization of the National Radon Proficiency Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of Public Workshop.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to announce a public workshop on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) National Radon Proficiency Program, and provide information about the workshop date, time and location.

The purpose of the workshop is to discuss EPA’s options for privatization. This notice includes a description of the workshop materials and background information being made available before the workshop, and information on how to request them. The Agency expects a wide variety of organizations to attend, including those with an interest in operating the program, states with similar programs, radon industry practitioners, program participants and members of the general public.

DATES: EPA will hold the public workshop on privatization of the National Radon Proficiency Program on Thursday, May 30, 1996, in Washington, D.C. Details of the workshop location and time will be included in the pre-workshop materials. The workshop is expected to start at 8:00 a.m. and conclude at 5:00 p.m.

Written comments about the Agency’s plan to privatize the National Radon Proficiency Program will be accepted until July 1, 1996, and should be submitted to the public docket or to Mr. Ed Chu as indicated in addresses below.

ADDRESSES: A package of information about the National Radon Proficiency Program and the public workshop, including the agenda, fact sheets,

program design description, administrative costs, the Agency’s strawman privatization plan, and other relevant materials may be obtained before the workshop by phone, fax or E-mail. Although these materials will also be available at the workshop, EPA recommends that background materials be obtained and reviewed before the workshop. To request the package of information before the workshop, contact Ms. Taunya Davis (202) 233-9398, or Ms. Estelle Mackall (202) 233-9390, or by facsimile at (202) 233-9555. Ms. Davis and Ms. Mackall are with the Indoor Environments Division (6604-J), Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, 401 M Street SW., Washington, D.C. 20460. Facsimile requests should clearly identify this public workshop in any cover sheet used, and include the requester’s full name and address, phone and facsimile number and e-mail address (if any). You may also request the information package by e-mail at “davis.taunya@epamail.epa.gov”.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ed Chu, RPP Privatization Workgroup, U.S. EPA/Office of Air and Radiation, Indoor Environments Division (6604-J), 401 M Street SW., Washington, D.C. 20460; telephone (202) 233-9347 or by e-mail at “chu.ed@epamail.epa.gov”.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Authority

After smoking, human exposure to radon gas is the second leading cause of death due to lung cancer. EPA and others believe that radon is responsible for about 14,000 deaths each year. To ensure accurate radon measurements and proper mitigation of homes with high radon levels, Congress directed EPA to establish and operate a radon proficiency program as part of the Radon Abatement Act (IRAA) of 1988 (U.S.C. 2661 et seq.).

The Agency’s National Radon Proficiency Program is a non-regulatory, voluntary program that is open to anyone who provides radon measurement and mitigation services. The primary purpose of the program is to improve the quality of radon services that consumers and organizations receive, and to assist individual states in protecting consumers and public health.

II. Background

The EPA established the National Radon Proficiency Program in late 1985. At that time the states and consumers needed an objective means for evaluating the radon measurement and mitigation services being offered to the public by a then fledgling radon services industry. In recent years, more than 20

states have established some form of registration, certification or licensing program for those in the radon services business. Many of these states have made participation in the EPA National Radon Proficiency Program mandatory. As of January 30, 1996, about 2,700 individuals and organizations were participating in the program. About 770 participants were listed as proficient for radon measurement analytical services, with another 1,450 for residential measurement services, and about 480 individuals for mitigation, or radon reduction, services.

Until 1994, EPA funded the program through its annual budget appropriation. However, in April 1994, the Agency began assessing and collecting user fees to defray the program's operating costs. Congress directed EPA to establish this user fee system under section 305 (e)(2) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). EPA distributed the percentage of program costs to be recovered incrementally over five years, with the first year's fees based on 30% of program costs, and full cost recovery (100%) expected in 1998.

EPA is now interested in exploring privatization of the National Radon Proficiency Program for several reasons. First, the radon services industry has matured sufficiently to a point where the scale of EPA's direct involvement in making proficiency determinations can be reduced. Second, the states are much stronger in their public health and consumer protection radon activities now than they were a decade ago, because of their general radon programs and certification programs. Finally, the Agency is interested in the private sector's potential to operate the program more cost effectively.

Purpose of Public Workshop

To more fully explore privatization, EPA is today announcing a public workshop to discuss the Agency's options and the mechanics of privatizing the National Radon Proficiency Program, and to gauge the level of private sector interest. The Agency expects a wide variety of organizations to have a potential interest in the question of whether and how to privatize the National Radon Proficiency Program.

Topics that the Agency expects to discuss with those attending the public workshop include: (1) EPA's strawman privatization plan; (2) a brief history of the program and the radon industry; (3) the current program design; (4) alternatives to the current program design; (5) the process and mechanisms for moving all or parts of the program

into the private sector; (6) the Agency's role in a privatized program; and, (7) what steps and actions EPA expects to take following the workshop to implement any final privatization plan and provide a mechanism for continuing a dialog with interested parties. Also, the Agency has established a public docket for the privatization effort and this public workshop. The Agency will place in the docket all public materials about the privatization effort and this public workshop.

Furthermore, EPA has established a 30-day comment period, ending July 1, 1996, for receiving comments about the privatization plan and the public workshop. Written comments should be sent to the docket. The Agency will issue a Federal Register notice announcing the outcomes from the public workshop, the Agency's decision on privatization and what steps the Agency will take to implement any final plan. The Agency expects to have decided on a privatization plan by the Fall of 1996.

IV. Public Record

EPA has established a public record for this workshop (docket control number A-96-21). The record for this workshop is available to the public in the Clean Air Act Docket, located on the first floor Waterside Mall, room M1500, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW, mail stop 6102, Washington, DC 20460, open from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays, (202) 260-7548. The Agency may charge a reasonable fee for the copying of docket materials.

Dated: April 24, 1996.

Richard Wilson,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 96-10814 Filed 4-30-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

[FRL-5465-3]

Peer-Review Workshop on PCBs: Cancer Dose-Response Assessment and Application to Environmental Mixtures

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of Peer-Review Workshop.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a peer-review workshop sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Center for Environmental Assessment of the Office

of Research and Development to review the external review draft document, PCBs: Cancer Dose-Response Assessment and Application to Environmental Mixtures (EPA/600/P-96/001A). EPA will use comments and recommendations from the workshop to assist in document revisions.

DATES: The workshop will begin on Tuesday, May 21, 1996, at 8:30 a.m. and end on Wednesday, May 22, at 4:30 p.m. Members of the public may attend as observers, and there will be a limited time for comments from the public on Tuesday afternoon. Wednesday afternoon is reserved for the peer panel to write its comments.

ADDRESSES: The workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn/Bethesda, 8120 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland 20814. Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG), and EPA subcontractor, is providing logistical support for the workshop. To attend the workshop, register by May 15 by calling ERG's registration line at 617-674-7374, or send a fax to 617-674-2906. Space is limited, and reservations will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. There will be a limited time for comments from the public on Tuesday afternoon. Please let ERG know if you wish to make a brief statement.

The document is available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/ORD> or for purchase from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161; telephone 703-487-4650; facsimile 703-321-8547. The NTIS order number is PB96-140603; the price is \$19.50 for paper and \$9.00 for microfiche. Copies are also available for inspection at EPA libraries. The EPA Headquarters Library is located at 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, DC; the library is open Monday through Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., except for Federal holidays. Copies are not available from ERG or NCEA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Jim Cogliano, National Center for Environmental Assessment/Washington Office (8623), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20460. Telephone: 202-260-3830; facsimile: 202-260-3803; E-Mail: cogliano.jim@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The draft report updates the cancer dose-response assessment for PCBs and shows how information on toxicity, disposition, and environmental processes can be considered together to evaluate health risks from PCB mixtures in the environment. Guidance is given on applying the assessment to