Kampf, U.S. EPA, Region III, 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, Pa. 19103, or L. Nancy Birnbaum, U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Room 1025WT (1802), Washington, DC 20460. The documents are also available via the Internet at the following location: ''http://www.epa.gov/ProjectXL''. In addition, public files on the Project are located at EPA Region III in Philadelphia. Questions to EPA regarding the documents can be directed to Rich Kampf at (215) 814–2105 or L. Nancy Birnbaum at (202) 260–2601. To be included on the Lucent Project XL mailing list to receive information about future public meetings, XL progress reports and other mailings from Lucent on the XL Project, contact: Debra Hennelly, Lucent Technologies, Inc., 219 Mount Airy Road, Room 2F236, P.O. Box 612, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920–0612. Ms. Hennelly can also be reached by telephone at (908) 953–4960. For information on all other aspects of the XL Program contact Christopher Knopes at the following address: Office of Reinvention, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Room 1029, 401 M Street, SW (1802), Washington, DC 20460. Additional information on Project XL, including documents referenced in this notice, other EPA policy documents related to Project XL, regional XL contacts, application information, and descriptions of existing XL projects and proposals, is available via the Internet at ''http://www.epa.gov/ProjectXL'' and via an automated fax-on-demand menu at (202) 260–8590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FPA is a voluntary agreement developed collaboratively by Lucent, stakeholders, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and EPA. Project XL, announced in the **Federal Register** on May 23, 1995 (60 FR 27282), gives regulated sources the flexibility to develop alternative strategies that will replace or modify specific regulatory requirements on the condition that they produce greater environmental benefits. EPA has set a goal of implementing a total of fifty projects undertaken in full partnership with the states.

On June 29, 1998, EPA announced the availability of the draft umbrella FPA in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 35212) and requested comments. As a result of that announcement, EPA received six positive comments: one each from the Allentown and Reading LEAGs, two from individual members of the Allentown LEAG, one from an individual member of both Allentown and Breinigsville LEAG who is also an environmental health and safety manager for a nearby R&D/corporate headquarters, and one from the Environmental Law Institute. No other comments were received.

The FPA is based on an existing third-party certified environmental management system (EMS) for Lucent's entire global microelectronics business unit, in fulfillment of the ISO 14001 standard for EMSs. The FPA allows Lucent to use the existing EMS as a framework for developing specific proposals involving regulatory flexibility such as simplifying permitting, record keeping, and reporting requirements, while driving continual improvement and pollution prevention programs. The FPA provides a ''test bed'' to determine the broad applicability of ISO 14001 as a vehicle for determining and managing regulatory flexibility while achieving superior environmental performance.

Lucent's project is a multi-regional attempt to incorporate environmental management practices across the entire business unit. The parties anticipate that the EMS will foster superior environmental performance by identifying opportunities to reduce Lucent's environmental impact. EPA Regions 3 and 4 are intended sites for facility-specific projects. Each facility-specific addendum to the umbrella FPA will also demonstrate superior environmental performance. The regulatory flexibility necessary to implement specific projects will be discussed in each facility-specific addendum.

As part of its EMS, Lucent has established facility-specific Local Environmental Advisory Groups (LEAGs) for all of its facilities globally. Each LEAG is composed of local stakeholders including environmental organizations, community groups, employees, and other interested citizens. The LEAGs provide input on the XL project and the EMS. The LEAGs unanimously approved the draft umbrella FPA.

Dated: August 20, 1998.

Lisa Lund,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Reinvention Programs, Office of Reinvention.

[FR Doc. 98–23815 Filed 9–2–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–U

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–6154–8]

Agency Information Collection Activities; OMB Responses

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notices.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) responses to Agency clearance requests, in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR Part 9 and 48 CFR Chapter 15.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Call Sandy Farmer at (202) 260–2740, or E-mail at ''farmer.sandy@epamail.epa.gov'', and please refer to the appropriate EPA Information Collection Request (ICR) Number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Responses to Agency Clearance Requests

OMB Approvals

EPA ICR No. 1735.02; Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements under EPA's AgSTAR Program; non-regulatory; was approved 08/11/98; OMB No. 2060–0329; expires 08/31/2001.

EPA ICR No. 1830.01; Collection of 1997 Iron and Steel Industry Data; was approved 08/03/98; OMB No. 2040–0193; expires 08/31/2001.

OMB Disapprovals

EPA ICR No. 1352.05; Community Right-to-Know Reporting Requirements under Section 311 and 312 of EPCRA; in 40 CFR Part 355.30, 40 CFR Part 355.40 and 40 CFR 370, Subpart B–D; was disapproved by OMB 08/11/98.

EPA ICR No. 1656.04; Requirements for Risk Management Plans under Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act; in 40 CFR Part 68; was disapproved by OMB 08/10/98.

EPA ICR No. 1844.01; Record Keeping and Reporting Requirements for NESHAP for Petroleum Refineries—Catalytic Cracking Units, Catalytic Reforming Units, and Sulfur Plant Units; was disapproved by OMB 07/27/98.

Extensions of Expiration Dates

EPA ICR No. 1679.02; Federal Standards of Marine Tank Vessel Loading and Unloading Operations and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Marine Tank Vessel Loading and Unloading Operation; in 40 CFR Part 63, Subpart Y; OMB No. 2060–0289; on 08/06/98 OMB extended the expiration date through 10/31/98.

EPA ICR No. 1284.04; NSPS for the Polymeric Coating of Supporting Substrates Facilities; in 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart VVV; OMB No. 2060–0181; on 08/10/98 OMB extended the expiration date through 02/28/99.

Dated: August 27, 1998.

Joseph Retzer,

Director, Regulatory Information Division.

[FR Doc. 98–23686 Filed 9–2–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OW–FRL–6155–2]

Notice of availability of the Water Quality Criteria and Standards Plan—Priorities for the Future

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability of, and request for comment on, the Water Quality Criteria and Standards Plan—Priorities for the Future.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces the availability of a plan, entitled the Water Quality Criteria and Standards Plan—Priorities for the Future. The Plan presents a vision and strategy to enhance and improve water quality criteria and standards programs across the country. The Plan describes seven new criteria and standards program initiatives that EPA, in partnership with the States and Tribes, will undertake or complete over the next ten years. The Plan briefly describes the water quality issues and concerns that the new criteria initiatives will address. For each initiative, the Plan explains the key objective(s) to be accomplished and the critical activities EPA is planning to undertake to achieve these objectives.

DATES: If you have comments on the Plan please provide them to the address listed below postmarked on or before October 16, 1998. EPA will consider your comments while preparing the final Plan this fall.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to: Water Quality Criteria and Standards Plan; Attn: Plan Comments; Health and Ecological Criteria Division (4304); Office of Science and Technology; Office of Water; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; 401 M Street SW; Washington, DC 20460.

This notice contains a brief summary of the Water Quality Criteria and Standards Plan. Copies of the complete Plan, or a fact sheet summarizing the Plan may be obtained from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Center for Environmental Publication and Information, 11029 Kenwood Road, Bldg. 5, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242; fax 1–513–489–8695 or 1–800–490–9198. Copies may also be ordered from the Office of Water Resource Center by calling (202) 260–7786. The fact sheet and the Plan are also available on the Internet at http://www.epa.gov/ost/standards/quality.html.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William F. Swietlik; Health and Ecological Criteria Division (4304); Office of Science and Technology; Office of Water; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; 401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460; (202) 260–9569; Fax (202) 260–1036; email: swietlik.william@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Plan supports the Clean Water Action Plan announced by President Clinton in February 1998. Many of the action items to be accomplished under the Action Plan rely on a strong water quality standards program. Strong water quality standards provide a foundation for the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting, nonpoint source control, wetlands protection, and other water resources management efforts.

A key action item in the Clean Water Action Plan is the reduction of nutrient over-enrichment. The Water Quality Criteria and Standards Plan highlights the criteria and standards activities that need to be accomplished to achieve this goal. The National Nutrient Strategy, recently released by EPA, explains in detail the approach to development of nutrient criteria and standards.

The Water Quality Criteria and Standards Plan also complements the Advance Notice of Proposed Rule Making (ANPRM) for the Water Quality Standards Regulations at 40 CFR Part 131, published in the **Federal Register** on July 7, 1998. The Plan describes the new criteria initiatives that EPA will undertake, and the ANPRM discusses and solicits public comment on how these scientific and technical improvements, along with other standards changes, should best be implemented in water quality standards programs by the States and Tribes.

The Water Quality Criteria and Standards Plan describes water quality criteria and standards initiatives in the following seven areas:

1. Maintaining and strengthening the existing *Ambient Water Quality Criteria* for surface waters.
2. Developing *Nutrient Criteria* and assessment methods to better protect aquatic life and human health.
3. Developing criteria for *Microbial Pathogens* to better protect human health during water recreation.
4. Completing the development of *Biocriteria* as an improved basis for aquatic life protection.
5. Developing improved *TMDLs and Modeling* to better translate water quality standards into implementable control strategies.
6. Evaluating possible new initiatives for *Sedimentation, Flow, and Wildlife.*
7. Ensuring *Implementation* of these new initiatives and improvements by EPA in partnership with the States and Tribes.

The national surface water quality protection program is at an important juncture. The initiatives described in the Plan are needed to better protect aquatic life and the recreational uses of the Nation's waters. Over the past two decades, State and Tribal water quality standards and water quality-based management approaches have relied upon aquatic life use designations and protective criteria based primarily upon narrative, chemical-specific, and whole effluent toxicity methodologies. Using these approaches, outstanding progress has been made. However, not all of the Nation's waters have achieved the Clean Water Act goal of ''fishable and swimmable'', and significant water pollution problems still exist. Approximately 40 percent of the Nation's assessed waters still do not meet water quality goals and about half of the Nation's 2000 major watersheds have water quality problems.

Given these facts, there is a critical need for improved water quality standards and a set of tools to implement those standards. Adding nutrient criteria and biological criteria to the water quality criteria and standards program ensures further improvements in maintaining and restoring aquatic life. Improved human health criteria will better protect against bioaccumulative pollutants and new microbial pathogen controls will better protect human health (especially that of children) during water related recreation. Better tools also are needed for controlling excessive sedimentation,