

This guidance document, Guidance for Conducting Health Risk Assessment of Chemical Mixtures, represents a supplement to the original Guidelines of 1986 and is intended to reflect the evolutionary scientific development in the area of chemical mixtures risk assessment. Consequently, many of the former discussions have been reiterated. New guidance has been provided that gives more specific details on the nature of the desired information and the procedures to use in analyzing the data. This supplement to the earlier guidances is organized according to the type of data available to the risk assessor, ranging from data rich to data poor situations. Procedures are described for assessment using data on the mixture of concern, data on a toxicologically related mixture, as well as data on the mixture component chemicals. The state of science varies dramatically for these three approaches. No single approach is recommended in this supplementary guidance. Instead, guidance is given for the use of several approaches depending on the nature and quality of the data. Although several of the procedures described in the guidance have not yet been applied in actual health risk assessments, their use and the generation of data to support their use is encouraged, along with research on new procedures to improve or replace those discussed. As new information relevant to health risk from exposure to chemical mixtures becomes available, additional guidance documents will be published. Following the external peer review, reviewers' comments will be addressed and the revised guidance will undergo Risk Assessment Forum final review.

Dated: April 26, 1999.

**William H. Farland,**

*Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6335-1]

### Notice of Availability of Topical Scientific Reports for an Integrated Assessment of the Causes and Consequences of Hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in coordination with National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce, invite public comments on six topical scientific reports requested by the National Science and Technology Council's Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR) for an assessment of the causes and consequences of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico as required by section 604(a) of Public Law 105-383. The six topic papers will be used by the CENR Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Working Group to prepare an Integrated Assessment which will provide ecological and economic analysis of various options for reducing nutrient loads carried by the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. This Integrated Assessment will be delivered to the President, Congress and the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by August 2, 1999. All comments received after the formal comment period will be reviewed by the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Working Group and delivered to the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force for their consideration along with the final Integrated Assessment.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be submitted to: Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Working Group National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, WS 13446 SSMC4, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. John Field, National Ocean Service, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, WS 13446 SSMC4, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, telephone 301-713-3060 x135, Internet John.Field@noaa.gov; or Dr. Mary Belefski, U.S. EPA, Assessment and Watershed Protection Division (AWPD), 401 M Street, S.W. (4503F), Washington, D.C. 20460, telephone (202) 260-7061; Internet: belefski.mary@epa.gov.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Purpose

The Environmental Protection Agency leads the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force consisting of Federal, State, and Tribal members. The purpose of this group is to coordinate and support nutrient management and hypoxia related activities in the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico watersheds.

### Status

These reports will provide the basis for the formulation of an Integrated Assessment of hypoxia in the northern Gulf of Mexico, as required in section 604(a) of Public Law 105-383. This law requires the assessment to consider the distribution, dynamics, and causes; ecological and economic consequences; sources and loads of nutrients transported by the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico; effects of reducing nutrient loads; methods for reducing nutrient loads; and the social and economic costs and benefits of such methods. This assessment will be delivered to the President and Congress and will subsequently provide the basis for the Action Plan required by section 604(b) of Public Law 105-383.

Each of the reports has undergone extensive peer review by independent scientific experts. These reports, along with the public comment on them, will be considered in developing the Integrated Assessment and, subsequently, the Action Plan.

The six reports are entitled:

**TOPIC 1—Characterization of hypoxia.** This report describes the seasonal, interannual, and long-term variation of hypoxia in the northern Gulf of Mexico, and its relationship to nutrient loadings. It also documents the relative roles of natural and human-induced factors in determining the size and duration of the hypoxic zone.

**TOPIC 2—Ecological and economic consequences of hypoxia.** This report presents an evaluation of the ecological and economic consequences of nutrient loading, including impacts on Gulf of Mexico fisheries and the regional and national economy.

**TOPIC 3—Flux and sources of nutrients in the Mississippi-Atchafalaya River Basin.** This report identifies the sources of nutrients within the Mississippi/Atchafalaya system and within the Gulf of Mexico with two distinct components, first, the geographic location of the most significant nutrient additions, and second, the relative importance of specific human activities in contributing to these loads.

**TOPIC 4—Effects of reducing nutrient loads to surface waters within the Mississippi River basin and Gulf of Mexico.** This report estimates the effects of nutrient source reductions in the Mississippi-Atchafalaya Basin on water quality in these waters and on primary productivity and hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico.

**TOPIC 5—Reducing nutrient loads, especially nitrate-nitrogen, to surface water, groundwater, and the Gulf of**

Mexico. This report identifies and evaluates methods to reduce nutrient loads to surface water, ground water, and the Gulf of Mexico.

TOPIC 6—Evaluation of economic costs and benefits of methods for reducing nutrient loads to the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to evaluating the social and economic costs and benefits of the methods identified in topic 5, this analysis includes an assessment of various incentive programs and any anticipated fiscal benefits generated for those attempting to reduce sources.

The reports may be reached via either the EPA or NOS websites: at <<http://www.epa.gov/msbasin/>>; <[http://www.nos.noaa.gov/Products/pubs\\_online.html](http://www.nos.noaa.gov/Products/pubs_online.html)>; or contact those listed above for information on how to obtain the reports.

Dated: April 29, 1999

**Robert Wayland,**

*Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6335-2]

### Notice of Proposed Purchaser Agreement Pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as Amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice; request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. 9601-9675, notice is hereby given that a proposed purchaser agreement ("Purchaser Agreement") associated with the McAdoo Associates Superfund Site, Blaine Street Location in the Borough of McAdoo, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania was executed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Justice and is now subject to public comment, after which the United States may modify or withdraw its consent if comments received disclose facts or considerations which indicate that the Purchaser Agreement is inappropriate, improper,

or inadequate. The Purchaser Agreement would resolve certain potential EPA claims under sections 106 and 107 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9606 and 9607, against Albert P. Mertz, More Mobility Inc. and Mobility Distributing, Inc. ("Purchasers"). The settlement would require the Purchasers to, among other things, pay \$500.00 within thirty (30) days of the effective date of the Purchaser Agreement to the EPA Hazardous Substances Superfund and provide access to EPA and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and all other persons performing response actions under EPA or Commonwealth of Pennsylvania oversight.

For thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this notice, the Agency will receive written comments relating to the proposed Purchaser Agreement. The Agency's response to any comments received will be available for public inspection at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before June 3, 1999.

**AVAILABILITY:** The proposed Purchaser Agreement and additional background information relating to the proposed Purchaser Agreement are available for public inspection at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103. A copy of the proposed Purchaser Agreement may be obtained from Suzanne Canning, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Docket Clerk (3RC00), 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Comments should reference the "McAdoo Associates Superfund Site, Blaine Street Location Proposed Purchaser Agreement" and "EPA Docket No. III-98-080-DC," and should be forwarded to Suzanne Canning at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lydia Isales (3RC00), Sr. Assistant Regional Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103, Phone: (215) 814-2648.

Dated: April 21, 1999.

**Stanley L. Laskowski,**

*Acting Regional Administrator, Region III.*

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## GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request Entitled Center of Excellence for Information Technology (CEIT)

**AGENCY:** Office of Information Technology, GSA.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for approval of a new information collection entitled Center of Excellence for Information Technology (CEIT).

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Office of Acquisition Policy has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve a new information collection concerning Center of Excellence for Information Technology (CEIT).

**DATES:** Comment Due Date: June 3, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, should be submitted to: Edward Springer, GSA Desk Officer, Room 3235, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503 and also may be submitted to Marjorie Ashby, General Services Administration (MVP), 1800 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20405.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Pat Smith, Office of Information Technology, (202) 501-0837.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### A. Purpose

The GSA is requesting the Office of Management and Budget to approve a new information collection concerning Center of Excellence for Information Technology (CEIT). The Center of Excellence for Information Technology (CEIT) will serve as a clearinghouse for best practices in information technology applications in both the public and private sectors. Current plans are to partner with leading Information Technology (IT) industry companies to establish a Center that provides innovative demonstrations of technology at work. Initial IT applications featured in the CEIT will focus on the use of web-enabled technologies to perform administrative functions and to deliver interagency transaction-based services through an Access America Seniors website.

##### B. Annual Reporting Burden

Respondents: 400; annual responses: 400; average hours per response: .15; burden hours: 60.