

DATES: The comment period on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking is extended until October 21, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted (in duplicate, if possible) to: EPA Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street (AIR2), San Francisco, CA 94105, Attn: Regina Spindler.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Regina Spindler (415) 744-1251, Planning Office (AIR2), Air Division, EPA Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.

Dated: September 24, 1999.

Felicia Marcus,

Regional Administrator, Region 9.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 122, 123, 124, 130, and 131

[FRL-6446-8]

Proposed Revisions to the Water Quality Planning and Management Regulation, and Revisions to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program and Federal Antidegradation Policy in Support of Proposed Revisions to the Water Quality Planning and Management Regulation

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On August 23, 1999, EPA issued two proposed rules to revise, clarify and strengthen the current regulatory requirements for identifying impaired waters and establishing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) under the Clean Water Act: revisions to the Water Quality Planning and Management Regulation (64 FR 46012); and revisions to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program and Federal Antidegradation Policy (64 FR 46058) in support of the revisions at (64 FR 46012). These proposed regulatory revisions address issues of fundamental importance to cleaning up our Nation's polluted waters. Listing impaired and threatened waters and establishing TMDLs are fundamental tools for identifying remaining sources of water pollution and achieving water quality goals. Clean-up plans developed consistent with these regulatory proposals will help to restore the health of thousands of miles of river and shoreline and make

millions of lake acres safe for their designated uses.

EPA sought comment on both sets of proposed rules by October 22, 1999. It is EPA's intent to provide the public and all stakeholders an adequate period of time to fully analyze the issues and prepare comprehensive comments. Therefore, we are extending the comment period an additional 60 days for a total comment period of 120 days.

DATES: Comments on these proposals must be submitted on or before December 22, 1999. Comments provided electronically will be considered timely if they are submitted by 11:59 P.M. (Eastern time) December 22, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments on the Proposed Revisions to the Water Quality Planning and Management Regulation to the Comment Clerk for the TMDL Program Rule, Water Docket (W-98-31), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

Send written comments on the Revisions to the NPDES Program and Federal Antidegradation Policy in Support of Proposed Revisions to the Water Quality Planning and Management Regulation to the Comment Clerk, Water Docket (W-99-04), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20460.

EPA requests that commenters submit any references cited in their comments. EPA also requests that commenters submit an original and 3 copies of their written comments and enclosures. Commenters that want receipt of their comments acknowledged should include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All comments must be postmarked or delivered by hand. No facsimiles (faxes) will be accepted.

EPA will also accept comments electronically. Comments should be addressed to the following Internet address: ow-docket@epa.gov. Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII or WordPerfect file avoiding the use of special characters and any form on encryption. Electronic comments must be identified by the appropriate docket number (W-98-31 for the TMDL rule and W-99-04 for the NPDES Program/Federal Antidegradation Policy rule), and may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries. No confidential business information (CBI) should be sent via e-mail.

A copy of the supporting documents cited in the proposals are available for review at EPA's Water Docket; Room EB-57 (East Tower Basement), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. For access to docket materials, call (202)

260-3027 between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. for an appointment. An electronic version of the TMDL proposal is available via the Internet at: <http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/tmdl/index.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Hazel Groman, US EPA, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (4503F), 401 M. St., SW, Washington, DC 20640, (202) 260-4078 for the TMDL rule. Kim Kramer, Office of Wastewater Management, 401 M. St., SW, Washington, DC 20640, Mail Code 4203, e-mail: Kramer.Kim@epa.gov, telephone: (202) 260-8541 for information regarding the NPDES provisions, or Susan Gilbertson, Office of Science and Technology, 401 M. St., SW, Washington, DC 20640, Mail Code 4305, e-mail: Gilbertson.Sue@epa.gov, telephone (202) 260-7301 for information regarding the water quality standards provisions.

Dated: September 24, 1999.

Dana D. Minerva,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Water.

[FR Doc. 99-25307 Filed 9-28-99; 2:26 pm]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 197

RIN 2060-AE30

[FRL-6450-2]

Opportunity To Present Oral Testimony on Environmental Radiation Protection Standards for Yucca Mountain, Nevada; Notice of Public Hearings

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Proposed rule; notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will conduct public hearings to receive comments on its proposed radiation protection standards for Yucca Mountain, Nevada, in Washington, DC; Amargosa Valley, NV; Las Vegas, NV; and Kansas City, MO in October.

The proposed standards were published in the **Federal Register** on August 27, 1999. The 90-day public comment period closes November 26.

DATES: The schedule for the hearings is as follows: Washington, DC, October 13, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Amargosa Valley, NV, October 19, 1999, beginning at 12:00 Noon; Las Vegas, NV, October 20, 1999, from 12:00 p.m. to

9:00 p.m. and October 21, 1999 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon; and Kansas City, MO, October 27, 1999, from 12:00 Noon to 9:00 p.m. Specific locations for each city are detailed in the next section.

ADDRESSES. Procedures for pre-registering for and testifying at these public hearings are detailed in the "Hearings Procedures" subsection of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

ADDRESSES: EPA's public hearings to receive comments on the Agency's proposed radiation protection standards for Yucca Mountain, Nevada will be held on October 13, 1999, at the Ronald Reagan Building (Federal Triangle Metro Stop), International Trade Center, Hemisphere B Meeting Room, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC; on October 19, 1999, at the Amargosa Valley Community Center, 821 East Farm Road, Amargosa Valley, NV; on October 20 and 21, 1999 at the Las Vegas Conference Suites and Services, Room 111, 101 Convention Center Drive, Las Vegas, NV; and on October 27, 1999, at the Kansas City Convention Center, Conference Center—Room 4201, 14th Street between Wyandotte and Central, Kansas City, MO.

EPA's official docket for this rule, including technical support documents and other documents and materials relevant to this rule, are filed in Docket No. A-95-12 of the Air Docket, located in Room M-1500 (first floor in Waterside Mall near the Washington Information Center), U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460-0001. EPA has also established "Information Files" for this rule at two locations in Nevada: the Government Publications Section of the Dickinson Library at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, 4504 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV, and the Public Library in Amargosa Valley, NV.

As provided in EPA's regulations at 40 CFR Part 2, and in accordance with normal Air docket procedures, if copies of any docket materials are requested, a reasonable fee may be charged for photocopying.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rafaela Ferguson, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, (202) 564-9362 or call EPA's 24-hour toll-free Yucca Mountain Information Line, 1-800-331-9477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. Department of Energy is developing a potential geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, for disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. As mandated by the Energy Policy Act of 1992, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed site-specific public health and safety

standards for the potential repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. On August 27, 1999, EPA published the proposed radiation protection standards for Yucca Mountain, Nevada in the **Federal Register** at 64 FR 46976-47016. Simultaneously, a 90-day public comment period on the Agency's proposed rule began. The public comment period closes November 26, 1999. Once EPA's standards are finalized, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is responsible for implementing those standards.

Hearings Procedures

Persons wishing to testify at the public hearings are requested to pre-register by calling EPA's toll-free Yucca Mountain Information Line at 1-800-331-9477 between the hours of 12:00 Noon and 7:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) with the following information: Name/Organizational Affiliation (if any)/hearing date, location, time(s) available to testify, and a daytime telephone number. In order to obtain a scheduled speaking time, requests must be received by EPA no later than 7:00 p.m. EST October 12, 1999 for the hearings in Washington, DC; October 18, 1999 for the hearings in Amargosa Valley and Las Vegas, NV; and October 22, 1999, for the hearings in Kansas City, MO. Speakers not registered in advance may register at the door. Individuals testifying on their own behalf will be allowed 5 minutes. One individual may testify as the official representative or spokesperson on behalf of groups and organizations and will be allocated ten minutes for an oral presentation. Time allowed is exclusive of any time consumed by questions from the government panel and answers to these questions. Testimony from individuals and representatives of organizations is limited to one hearing location. Substitutions will not be permitted for any pre-registered person. Registrants will not be permitted to yield their time to other individuals or groups, nor will hearing time be used to "read into the record" testimony from individuals not present at the hearings. In the event any person wishes to enter comments for the record, but either cannot or does not appear personally at the hearings, written comments will be accepted by EPA during the hearings. These written comments will be considered to the same extent as oral testimony and will be included as part of the official hearings transcripts. The hearing transcript will constitute the official record of the hearings. Written comments submitted outside of the public hearings must be received by EPA Docket No. A-95-12 in

Washington, DC by November 26, 1999. All comments received by EPA, whether written or oral, will be given equal consideration in development of the final rule.

Dated: September 27, 1999.

Robert Brenner,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[I.D. 092799E]

Groundfish Fisheries of the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Area

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of intent; scoping meetings; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces its intention to prepare a programmatic supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) on Federal groundfish fishery management in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters off Alaska. The scope of the analysis will include all activities addressing the conduct of groundfish fisheries authorized and managed under two of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's fishery management plans (FMPs): Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA), and amendments thereto; and Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (BSAI), and amendments thereto.

NMFS will hold scoping meetings to receive public input on the structure of the alternatives and the range of issues to be covered in the programmatic SEIS. NMFS is accepting written comments on the same topics.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted through November 15, 1999 (see ADDRESSES). See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, Public Involvement for meeting dates.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests to be included on a mailing list of persons interested in the programmatic SEIS should be sent to Lori Gravel, Sustainable Fisheries Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802. Comments may also be hand-