

business information. EPA reserves the right to make final confidentially decisions in accordance with Agency regulations at 40 CFR part 2, subpart B. If no such claim accompanies the proposal when it is received by EPA, it may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to the applicant.

#### X. Congressional Review Act

Under the Agency's current interpretation of the definition of a "rule," grant solicitations such as this which are competitively awarded on the basis of selection criteria, are considered rules for the purpose of the Congressional Review Act (CRA). The CRA, 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (SBREFA), generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rules must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. EPA will submit a report containing this rule and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of the rule in the **Federal Register**. This rule is not a "major rule" as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

#### List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Agricultural commodities, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Risk reduction.

Dated: August 25, 2003.

**Thomas C. Voltaggio,**

*Acting Regional Administrator, Region III.*

[FR Doc. 03-23275 Filed 9-11-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-S

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7557-6]

#### Science Advisory Board Staff Office; Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meeting (Teleconference)

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Agency), Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office announces a publicly-accessible

teleconference: for the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) to review, deliberate on, and approve the report of the CASAC National Ambient Air Monitoring Strategy (NAAMS) Subcommittee; and for the CASAC Particulate Matter (PM) Review Panel to discuss follow-on matters related to its review of the EPA Air Quality Criteria Document for Particulate Matter (Fourth External Review Draft).

**DATES:** The teleconference will take place on Friday, October 3, 2003, from 2 to 5 pm (Eastern Time). The CASAC will discuss the report of the CASAC NAAMS Subcommittee from 2 to 3 pm; and the CASAC PM Review Panel will discuss follow-on matters related to the draft PM Air Quality Criteria Document from 3 to 5 pm.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Members of the public who wish to obtain the teleconference call-in numbers and access codes should contact Ms. Delores Darden, EPA Science Advisory Board Staff, at telephone/voice mail: (202) 564-2282, or e-mail: [darden.delores@epa.gov](mailto:darden.delores@epa.gov), or Ms. Sandra Friedman, EPA Science Advisory Board Staff, at telephone/voice mail: (202) 564-2526, or e-mail: [friedman.sandra@epa.gov](mailto:friedman.sandra@epa.gov).

Any member of the public who wants further information concerning this teleconference, or who wishes to submit written or brief oral comments (five minutes or less), must contact Mr. Fred Butterfield, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), EPA Science Advisory Board (1400A), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone/voice mail: (202) 564-4561; fax: (202) 501-0582; or e-mail:

[butterfield.fred@epa.gov](mailto:butterfield.fred@epa.gov). Requests to provide oral comments must be in *writing* (e-mail, fax or mail) and received by Mr. Butterfield no later than noon Eastern Time five business days prior to the teleconference in order to reserve time on the meeting agenda. Written comments (preferably via e-mail) should be sent to Mr. Butterfield by the same deadline so that these comments can be provided to the CASAC or the CASAC PM Review Panel, as applicable, prior to the teleconference. See additional instructions in the section below entitled, "Providing Oral or Written Comments at SAB Meetings." General information concerning the CASAC or the EPA Science Advisory Board can be found on the EPA Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Summary:* The Clean Air Scientific Advisory

Committee, which comprises seven members appointed by the EPA Administrator, was established under section 109(d)(2) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7409) as an independent scientific advisory committee, in part to provide advice, information and recommendations on the scientific and technical aspects of issues related to air quality criteria and national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) under sections 108 and 109 of the Act. The CASAC, which is administratively located under the EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office, is a Federal advisory committee chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. The CASAC and CASAC Particulate Matter Review Panel will comply with the provisions of FACA and all appropriate SAB Staff Office procedural policies.

**Background:** The CASAC NAAMS Subcommittee is charged with providing advice, information and recommendations to the Agency on the technical bases and design aspects of the National Ambient Air Monitoring Strategy. The NAAMS Subcommittee held a public meeting in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, on July 8-9, 2003 (68 FR 34945, June 11, 2003) to review the NAAMS document. The Subcommittee will report to the Administrator of EPA through the CASAC.

The CASAC PM Review Panel is charged in part with providing advice, information and recommendations on the scientific and technical aspects of issues related to air quality criteria and NAAQS for particulate matter, under sections 108 and 109 of the Clean Air Act. The PM Review Panel reports directly to the Administrator of EPA. This teleconference is a follow-on to the Panel's review of the EPA Air Quality Criteria Document for Particulate Matter (Fourth External Review Draft), which review took place in a public meeting held in Research Triangle Park on August 25-26, 2003 (68 FR 47060, August 7, 2003), and specifically to discuss the restructuring of Chapter 9 (Integrative Synthesis) of that document.

**Availability of Additional Meeting Materials:** The draft agenda for the CASAC and CASAC PM Review Panel teleconference will be posted on the SAB Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab> (under the "Agendas" subheading) in advance of the meeting. The draft report of the CASAC NAAMS Subcommittee, and any other materials that may be available, will also be posted on the SAB Web site during this time-frame.

**Providing Oral or Written Comments at SAB Meetings:** It is the policy of the

EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office to accept written public comments of any length, and to accommodate oral public comments whenever possible. The EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously-submitted oral or written statements. *Oral Comments:* In general, for teleconference meetings, opportunities for oral comment will usually be limited to no more than three minutes per speaker and no more than fifteen minutes total for all speakers. The deadline for getting on the public speaker list for this teleconference is given above. Speakers who attend the teleconference in person should bring at least 35 copies of their comments and presentation slides for distribution to the reviewers and public at the meeting. *Written Comments:* Although the SAB Staff Office will accept written comments until the date of the teleconference (unless otherwise stated), written comments should be received in the SAB Staff Office at least one week prior to the meeting date so that the comments may be made available to the committee for their consideration. Comments should be supplied to the DFO at the address/contact information noted above in the following formats: one hard copy with original signature, and one electronic copy via e-mail (acceptable file format: Adobe Acrobat, WordPerfect, Word, or Rich Text files in IBM-PC/Windows 95/98 format). Those providing written comments and who attend the teleconference in person are also asked to bring 35 copies of their comments for public distribution.

*Meeting Access.* Individuals requiring special accommodation to access this teleconference, or who wish to attend this teleconference in person, should contact Mr. Butterfield at the telephone or e-mail address provided above at least five business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Dated: September 8, 2003.

**Vanessa T. Vu,**  
*Director, EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office.*

[FR Doc. 03-23274 Filed 9-11-03; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7557-8]

### Science Advisory Board Staff Office; Ecological Processes and Effects Committee; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meeting; Consultation on EPA's Strategy on Suspended and Bedded Sediments; Discussion of EPEC Activities in Fiscal Year 2004

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Science Advisory Board Staff Office (SAB), Ecological Processes and Effects Committee (EPEC) will hold a face-to-face meeting to conduct a consultation on EPA's strategy for developing water-quality criteria for suspended and bedded sediments. In addition, EPEC members will discuss EPEC activities for fiscal year 2004.

**DATES:** The meeting will begin on Thursday, October 2, 2003, at 8:30 am (Eastern Time) and adjourn no later than 5:30 pm that day.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in Washington, DC. Location of the meeting will be announced on the SAB Web site, <http://www.epa/sab>. For further information concerning the meeting, please contact Dr. L. Joseph Bachman (see contact information below).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Any member of the public wishing further information concerning this meeting must contact Dr. L. Joseph Bachman, Designated Federal Officer, USEPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office, (1400A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460; telephone/voice mail at (202) 564-3968; fax at (202) 501-0582; or via e-mail at [bachman.joseph@epa.gov](mailto:bachman.joseph@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Action:* Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that the Ecological Processes and Effects Committee (EPEC) of the U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) will meet on Thursday October 2, to hold a consultation on EPA's strategy for developing water-quality criteria for suspended and bedded sediments. In addition, EPEC members will discuss possible EPEC activities for fiscal year 2004. The meeting is open to the public; however, seating is limited and available on a first come basis.

*Availability of the Meeting Materials:* Any meeting materials will be made

available from the EPA's Office of Water (OW) and the Office of Research Development (ORD). The proposed agenda for the meeting will be posted approximately 10 calendar days prior to the meeting at the SAB's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/sab/panels/epecsabspanel.htm>. Links to available meeting materials will also be posted at this location. For questions and information concerning the agenda, please contact Dr. L. Joseph Bachman (see contact information above).

### Background for Consultation on Suspended and Bedded Sediments

The Ecological Processes and Effects Committee (EPEC) of the EPA Science Advisory Board was asked by the Health and Ecological Criteria Division of the Office of Science and Technology, Office of Water, to provide a consultation on potential approaches on a strategy for developing water-quality criteria for Suspended and Bedded Sediments (SABS). A request for nominations for consultant panel members to provide additional expertise to EPEC appeared in the **Federal Register** on July 30, 2003 (68 FR 44758-44760). That request contained a more detailed description of the regulatory context of the SABS issue and the scientific approaches being considered in the strategy development.

In 1976, EPA issued a water quality criteria recommendation under the Clean Water Act for solids and turbidity. For a variety of reasons, the States seldom use this criterion. It is questionable whether this criterion would achieve intended protection for all different designated uses for water bodies. SABS occurs naturally in streams in a wide range of concentrations—levels that might be perfectly normal in one water body could be indicative of impairment in another.

Although most States currently have water quality criteria that can be applied to manage SABS, these are typically based on turbidity, suspended solids or settleable solids, and their effectiveness for dealing with all water quality impairments caused by SABS, especially as benchmarks for aquatic life protection based on natural levels, is questionable. In recent consultations with State representatives, the need for new water quality criteria for SABS or methodologies for deriving them on a site-specific basis was identified as one of the highest priorities for the water quality criteria program. As a result, the EPA Office of Water has concluded that to better manage SABS in all types of water bodies and for all designated uses, State and Tribal water quality managers