

detailed questionnaire to industry associations and environmental groups plus a meeting to discuss comments. EPA also made presentations at many professional and industry association meetings. The following are the industry associations that participated in the EPA outreach program: Utility Water Act Group, American Forest and Paper Association, American Iron and Steel Institute, American Petroleum Institute, Chemical Manufacturers Association, and Edison Electric Institute. EPA also requested comments on the detailed questionnaire from the Electric Power Research Institute. Environmental group outreach included the Hudson Riverkeeper, the New York and New Jersey Baykeeper and other interested environmental group representatives. Based on comments received from these early outreach activities, EPA decided to first administer a screener questionnaire (except to electric utilities) followed by a detailed questionnaire. The screener is designed to assist EPA in selecting an appropriate sample of facilities that employ cooling water intake structures to receive the detailed technical questionnaire. Electric utilities will not receive a screener questionnaire because of the large volume of publicly available data.

The Agency has coordinated extensively with the Energy Information Association (EIA) to determine what pertinent information is publicly available. EPA does not intend to request, in the detailed questionnaire, information that is publicly available. For that reason, the Agency has greatly reduced the financial and economic information burden on the electric utilities. The majority of the information EIA collects from nonutility power producers is confidential business information not available to EPA.

EPA significantly lowered the burden to industry by systematically reducing the number of industrial facilities to receive the detailed questionnaire from a possible 412,000 facilities to about 1,700 facilities. Based on water intake and cooling water use from the 1982 Census of Manufacturers, EPA identified six industrial sectors to receive the screener or the detailed questionnaire or both. These six industrial sectors are: Electric Utilities, Nonutility Power Producers, Chemicals & Allied Products, Primary Metals Industry, Petroleum & Coal Products, and Paper & Allied Products. Together, EPA estimates that these six sectors account for more than 99 percent of all cooling water withdrawals and include about 50,000 facilities. EPA limited the sample frame for electric utilities and nonutility power producers to only

those facilities that have a prime mover which utilizes a steam cycle operation (a steam cycle operation requires cooling water). EPA also limited data collection to industrial subcategories which documented significant cooling water use, thereby further reducing the potential number of facilities to be surveyed to about 7,515. To help further refine the sample frame for the detailed questionnaire, EPA decided to administer a screener survey to five of the six industrial sectors (excluding electric utility). The Agency anticipates administering the screener to approximately 6,700 facilities. As stated earlier, EPA expects to administer the detailed survey to approximately 1,705 facilities. Limiting the survey sample frame as described above is not intended to limit the scope or applicability of the section 316(b) regulation.

Finally, EPA will maintain a temporary, no-charge telephone number that survey recipients may call to obtain assistance in completing the data collection surveys. EPA believes that the no-charge telephone number will greatly reduce burden by helping recipients to answer specific questions within the context of their individual operations.

Dated: January 19, 1998.

**Tudor T. Davies,**

*Director, Office of Science and Technology.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5953-7]

### EPA's National Drinking Water Contaminant Occurrence Data Base

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

**ACTION:** Announcement of a stakeholder meeting on the National Drinking Water Contaminant Occurrence Data Base.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has scheduled a two-day public meeting on EPA's National Drinking Water Contaminant Occurrence Data Base. At the upcoming meeting, EPA is seeking input from stakeholders, including national and state representatives, environmental organizations, industry, the public, and other interested parties. The purpose of the meeting is to seek input from stakeholders on the design of the national drinking water contaminant occurrence data base to include such issues as data elements, data element standardization, reporting, storage,

retrieval, use and access. EPA encourages the full participation of stakeholders throughout this process.

**DATES:** The stakeholder meeting on the National Drinking Water Contaminant Occurrence Data Base will be held on February 12, 1998 from 9:00-5:00 p.m. EST and on February 13 from 9:00-3:00 p.m. EST.

**ADDRESSES:** Resolve, Inc. (an EPA contractor) will provide logistical support for the stakeholders meeting. The meeting will be held at Resolve, Inc., 1255 23rd Street, NW, Suite 275, Washington, D.C. 20037.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general information about the meeting logistics, please contact Mr. Jeff Citrin at Resolve, Inc., 1255 23rd Street, NW, Suite 275, Washington, D.C. 20037; phone: (202) 944-2300; fax: (202) 338-1264, or e-mail at jcitrin@resolv.org.

Members of the public wishing to attend the meeting may register by phone by contacting Mr. Jeff Citrin by February 2, 1998. Those registered for the meeting will receive background materials prior to the meeting.

For other information on the National Drinking Water Contaminant Occurrence Data Base, please contact Charles Job at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Phone: 202-260-7084, Fax: 202-260-3762, or e-mail at job.charles@epamail.epa.gov.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### A. Background on the National Drinking Water Contaminant Occurrence Data Base

The Safe Drinking Water Act, SDWA, as amended in 1996, states that: Not later than three years after the date of enactment of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, the Administrator shall assemble and maintain a national drinking water contaminant occurrence data base using information on the occurrence of both regulated and unregulated contaminants in public water systems obtained under section 1445(a)(1)(A) or section 1445(a)(2) and reliable information from other public and private sources. The National Drinking Water Contaminant Occurrence Data Base is required to be developed by August 6, 1999.

#### B. Request for Stakeholder Involvement

EPA has convened this public meeting to hear the views of stakeholders on the next stage (i.e., design) of the National Drinking Water Contaminant Occurrence Data Base development. The EPA National Contaminant Occurrence Data Base (NCOD) project Team will soon be making final recommendations on the

data elements that will be the foundation for future regulated and unregulated contaminant occurrence data reporting. The data submitted using these data elements will provide the basis for the Administrator to determine whether or not to regulate contaminants in the future. For chemical contaminants, a series of meetings have been held with a diverse group of EPA, state, public water system, public health, consumer, and environmental groups, which identified a number of data elements that should be considered for reporting. The majority of the data elements are already in the structure of the EPA Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS). A preliminary categorization of the remaining data elements indicates that some could be dropped because of potential duplication with other data elements, others could be derived from other data elements in the SDWIS structure, and the rest are new data elements. The new data elements are principally focused on: quality assurance, representativeness of the sample, laboratory information, sample location, and well information.

Additionally, the meeting will address such issues as:

1. What specific data element standards should be used?
2. How will electronic reporting by States, public water systems and/or laboratories best be accomplished?
3. What electronic platform(s) should be used to support the NCOD, recognizing public access as a major consideration in data base design?
4. What options for data retrieval should be considered?
5. In what ways will EPA use the data?
6. How should the data be analyzed?
7. What information should be available to the public?

The public is invited to provide comments on the issues listed above or other issues related to the National Drinking Water Contaminant Occurrence Data Base during the February 12–13, 1998 meeting.

Dated: January 21, 1998.

**Cynthia Dougherty,**

*Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.*

[FR Doc. 98–1762 Filed 1–23–98; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–5953–5]

### Meeting of the Small Community Advisory Subcommittee of the Local Government Advisory Committee

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This meeting is the first for the Small Community Advisory Subcommittee of the Local Government Advisory Committee. Orientation, organization and agenda setting will be the focus of this gathering. The group takes up the work of an earlier advisory group known as the Small Towns Task Force. At this meeting, the subcommittee will hear presentations about the history and recommendations of the Small Towns Task Force. Part of the meeting will also be devoted to presentations about Federal Advisory committee operations, rules and regulations. The group will also develop a strategy to guide subsequent meetings. Responsibility for the Small Community Advisory Subcommittee of the Local Government Advisory Committee rests with the Office of Administrator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR) under the leadership of Joseph Crapa, Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations and Michael O'Connor, Deputy Associate Administrator for State and Local Relations. OCIR serves as the Agency's principal liaison with State and local government officials and the organizations which represent them.

From 3:00–3:30 p.m. on February 18, the Committee will hear comments from the public. Each individual or organization wishing to address the Committee will be allowed three minutes. Please contact the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) at the number listed below to schedule agenda time. Time will be allotted on a first come, first serve basis.

This is an open meeting and all interested persons are invited to attend. Meeting minutes will be available after the meeting and can be obtained by written request from the DFO. Members of the public are requested to call the DFO at the number listed below if planning to attend so that arrangements can be made to comfortably accommodate attendees as much as possible. However, seating will be on a first come, first serve basis.

**DATES:** The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 17 and conclude at 4:00 p.m. on February 18.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown located at 200 West 12th Street in Kansas City, Missouri.

Requests for Minutes and other information can be obtained by writing to 401 M Street, S.W. (1502), Washington, DC 20460.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The DFO for this subcommittee is Steven Wilson. He is the point of contact for information concerning any Committee matters and can be reached by calling (202) 260–2294.

**Steven Wilson,**

*Designated Federal Officer, Small Community Advisory Subcommittee of the Local Government Advisory Committee.*

[FR Doc. 98–1761 Filed 1–23–98; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP–00521; FRL–5767–4]

### Liquid Chemical Sterilant Products; Notice of Availability of PR Notice

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** EPA is announcing the availability of Pesticide Regulation (PR) Notice 98–2, entitled “Liquid Chemical Sterilant Products.” The PR Notice advises applicants and registrants of new FIFRA provisions related to liquid chemical sterilants intended for use on critical or semi-critical medical devices. Interested parties may request a copy of this PR Notice and obtain further information as set forth in the Addresses unit of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** The PR Notice is available from, by mail: Barbara Mandula, Antimicrobials Division (7510W), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. The public record is filed in OPP's Docket Office under docket control number “OPP–00521”, located in Room 119 of the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** By mail: Barbara Mandula (7510W), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location and telephone number: Sixth Floor, Crystal Station #1, 2800 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, (703) 308–