### **Contacts**

Additional general and technical information on this solicitation and the grants program may be obtained by contacting: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Exploratory Research (8703), 401 M Street SW., Washington, DC 20460, Phone: (202) 260–7474/Fax: (202) 260–0211.

Dated: February 16, 1995.

## Joseph K. Alexander,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Research & Development.

[FR Doc. 95–4597 Filed 2–23–95; 8:45 am]

## [FRL-5161-7]

# Notice of Public Meetings on Drinking Water Issues

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is holding public meetings related to the Agency's drinking water program over the next several months. Descriptions of the subject areas for the meetings are provided below, along with initial meeting dates, times and locations. Names and phone numbers of EPA contact persons are also provided. Additional information about a particular subject area, as well as dates of additional meetings, may be obtained by calling the EPA contact person listed for that subject area.

The purpose of the meetings is to provide EPA with ideas, suggestions and options either for proceeding with specific activities related to the drinking water program or which can serve as the basis for strategic decisions on program directions and resource allocations. The intent is to provide EPA with the full array of viewpoints, ideas and concerns which are held by its multiplicity of stakeholders. Summaries of the ideas and suggestions from the public meetings will be provided to EPA senior managers in the drinking water program for further consideration.

Some of the meetings will focus on how to carry out specific activities which the agency perceives as ripe for action and which can be undertaken within EPA's existing resource constraints. Others will be used to seek broad input on options for prioritizing among other possible activities within a subject area, including suggestions for other ways to do business. In some cases, these two approaches will be combined in a single meeting.

For some of the eight subject areas, only one or two public meetings may prove necessary. For others, such meetings may take place more frequently over a period of several

months. Most of the meetings will be in Washington, D.C. Because EPA will not be able to fund travel for any participants, all meetings will be teleconferenced to enable participation by persons in other locales.

Where the Agency has chosen to proceed with a specific activity, such as revising the State Programs Priorities Guidance for the Public Water Systems Supervisory Program, we will also solicit participation in stakeholder forums in order to enable us to receive additional feedback. These forums will include the array of stakeholder interests. Members of the public may attend and observe the forums. As with the public meetings, the purpose of the forums will be to provide EPA with individual stakeholder views rather than to seek an opinion from the group as a whole.

Where EPA is seeking to prioritize among possible activities, the Agency will convene a senior EPA management group to review the public meeting summaries. That group will assemble the information and develop a program action plan consistent with available resources. The plan will be submitted to the National Drinking Water Advisory Council for its comment. Final decisions on priorities will be made by Assistant Administrator Robert Perciasepe. EPA will continue to seek further stakeholder input on how to proceed after priority activities have been determined.

Alternatively or in addition to attending any particular meeting, members of the public may submit written comments to the EPA contact person for up to fifteen days after the meeting. General questions about the meeting process should be directed to Charlene Shaw with EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water at (202) 260–2285.

## **Subject Areas and Initial Meeting Schedules**

Regulatory Reassessment

EPA will hold a public meeting on regulatory reassessment on March 13, 1995, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the St. James Hotel, 950 24th Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20037. Meetings under this subject area will provide EPA with stakeholder input on priorities for regulating drinking water contaminants. There is a wide variability among the regulations in terms of the relative risk reductions they will produce. Also, EPA does not believe it has the resources to continue working on all regulations currently required in a timely and high quality fashion.

In addition to discussing regulation priorities, meeting participants may also

suggest criteria for prioritizing rulemaking efforts. EPA will consider comments provided by participants in developing a prioritized list of regulatory activities. The priority list will be used to identify which regulations can be developed in the near term and which are appropriate for a much longer time frame for development. With this information, EPA hopes to renegotiate current court-ordered schedules and more effectively direct federal, State and local resources. EPA Contact: Jan Auerbach, (202) 260–5274.

### Scientific Data Needs

EPA will hold a public meeting on scientific data needs on March 30, 1995, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the EPA Auditorium, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Up to date information and quality models and methodologies are essential to sound regulatory and programmatic decisionmaking. They form the foundation for the more visible Agency actions and products. Since data collection and analysis is resource and time intensive, some trade-offs are inevitable. EPA will seek input regarding identification of the most critical needs. Meetings under this subject area would also seek input on other factors which may merit consideration.

This subject area encompasses a wide range of questions, including the following. Within the context of statutory goals and timetables, what types of data should be assembled and considered in chemical assessment? What levels of monitoring data are required at all stages of the contaminant evaluation process, from selection to actual regulatory decisions? What are the other key data needs with respect to regulatory impact assessment? What should the balance be between investing in more sophisticated cost estimate models versus reducing uncertainty in other areas such as health assessment? Within the context of statutory guidelines and available public and private resources, do interested parties believe surrogate indicators (such as volumes of pesticides used) are adequate for contaminant selection for Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) development, or should public water supply monitoring and federal reporting of those data precede MCL development? Beyond contaminant selection, cost and benefit assessments will be discussed.

This subject area also includes discussion of data needs related to source water protection, including drinking water occurrence, locational and well characteristic data which