Nuclear Fuel, High-Level and Transuranic Radioactive Wastes." These criteria were proposed at 60 FR 5766 and were published in Part II of the **Federal Register** on January 30, 1995. The Agency intends to issue final compliance criteria in February 1996, approximately one year after this proposal.

DATES: EPA will conduct public hearings on the Proposed Compliance Criteria Rule in Carlsbad, NM on March 21, 1995 from noon to 9:00 p.m. Public hearings will be held in Albuquerque, NM on March 22, from noon to 9:00 p.m. Public hearings will be held in Santa Fe, NM on Wednesday, March 23, from noon to 9:00 p.m. and on March 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. In all cases, there will be a dinner break from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

For speakers to receive scheduled times to testify, requests to testify must be received on or before March 14, 1995, in order to guarantee an opportunity to testify. Speakers not registered on or before March 14 may register at the door and will be scheduled to testify if time permits.

ADDRESSES: The Proposed Compliance Criteria Rule public hearings will be held March 21, 1995, at the Quality Inn (formerly the Park Inn International), 3706 National Parks Highway, Carlsbad, NM; March 22 at the Albuquerque Convention Center, 401 Second Street NW., Albuquerque, NM; and March 23 and 24 at the High Mesa Inn, 3347 Cerillos Road, Santa Fe, NM.

To register to testify telephone Kelly Rose or Ed Lyons of AST, Inc. at (301) 670-8344 or fax your request directly to AST at (301) 670-4099 to their attention. When registering by phone or fax, please provide the following information: Name, Address, Organizational Affiliation (only if testifying as spokesperson or official representative for the company), desired date, hearing location, times available to testify, and a daytime telephone number. Registrations must be made by March 14, 1995, in order to be guaranteed an opportunity to testify. Testifiers not registered on or before March 14 may register at the door and will be scheduled if time permits.

Individual speakers will be allocated 5 minutes and individuals testifying as the official representative or spokesperson on behalf of groups and organizations will be allocated 10 minutes for an oral presentation exclusive of any time consumed by

questions from the government panel and answers to these questions.

Information on EPA's proposed compliance criteria rule (40 CFR Part 194) is listed under Docket No. A-92-56 and is available for review at the following three EPA WIPP docket locations in New Mexico: in Carlsbad at the Municipal Library, Hours: Mon-Thu, 10-9, Fri-Sat, 10-6, and Sun 1-5; in Albuquerque at the Government Publications Department, Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico, Hours: Mon-Thu, 8-9, Fri, 8-5, Sat-Sun, 1-5; and in Santa Fe at the Fogelson Library, College of Santa Fe, Hours: Mon-Thu, 8-12 Midnight, Fri, 8-5, Sat, 9–5, and Sun, 1–9. For purposes of judicial review, EPA's official docket for the compliance criteria rulemaking, Docket Ño. A-92-56, is located in Washington, DC in the Air Docket, Room M1500, Mailcode 6102, U.S. EPA, 401 M Street SW., Washington, DC 20460.

EPA also established separate official dockets for other rulemaking activities under the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Land Withdrawal Act at the Washington, DC (WDC) location. The following is a list of EPA's radioactive waste dockets: Radioactive Waste (40 CFR Part 191)—Docket No. R-89-01; Compliance Criteria (40 CFR Part 194)— Docket No. A-92-56; Test and Retrieval Plans Review—Docket No. A-92-57; Compliance Determination—Docket No. A-93-02. [**Note:** The dockets in New Mexico only contain major items from the official docket (WDC) plus all those documents added to the official docket since October 1992 when the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act was enacted.]

As provided in 40 CFR part 2, a reasonable fee may be charged for photocopying docket materials.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rafaela Ferguson, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, (202) 233–9362 or cal

and Indoor Air, (202) 233–9362 or call EPA's 24-hour toll-free WIPP Information Line, 1–800–331–WIPP.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. Department of Energy is developing the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad in southeastern New Mexico as a deep geologic repository for disposal of transuranic (TRU) radioactive waste. TRU wastes are materials containing elements having atomic numbers greater than 92 in concentrations greater than 100 nanocuries of alpha-emitting TRU isotopes, with half-lives greater than twenty years, per gram of waste. Most TRU wastes are items that have become associated with the production of

nuclear weapons; e.g., rags, equipment, tools, and contaminated organic and inorganic sludges.

On October 30, 1992, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Land Withdrawal Act (Pub. L. 102-579) was enacted. Among other things, the law specifies the terms and conditions for the DOE's activities at the WIPP and the regulatory requirements which apply throughout various stages of the repository's development including the requirement that before beginning disposal of radioactive wastes at the WIPP, DOE must demonstrate that the WIPP will comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) radioactive wastes disposal standards, e.g., "Environmental Standards for the Management and Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel, High-Level and Transuranic Radioactive Wastes" (40 CFR part 191).

Under the Act, EPA is required to develop criteria for the Administrator's certification of compliance with the 40 CFR part 191 disposal standards. On February 11, 1993, EPA published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 58 FR 8029, in the **Federal Register** requesting information and comments pertinent to the development of the compliance criteria.

On January 11, 1995, EPA Administrator Carol Browner signed the proposed compliance criteria rule. The 90-day public comment period began on January 30, the date the proposed compliance criteria rule notice appeared at 60 FR 5766 in Part II of the Federal **Register**, and ends on May 1, 1995. EPA intends to issue final compliance criteria one year after prosposal in the **Federal Register**. The WIPP Land Withdrawal Act requires the DOE to demonstrate compliance with EPA's disposal standards and to submit an application for certification of WIPP's compliance to the EPA Administrator. In submitting such an application, the DOE must meet the requirements of the EPA compliance criteria because EPA will use these criteria in certifying whether or not the WIPP complies with the disposal standards.

Dated: February 23, 1995.

## Mary D. Nichols,

Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 95-5026 Filed 2-28-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P