Requests to present oral testimony must be received on or before October 18, 1995, and will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. **ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at: Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, Telephone number: 703–418–1234. A small number of rooms have been set aside for those participants staving

overnight. Reservations must be made by October 4, 1995, under "EPA's Public Meeting on Environmentally Preferable Products, " in order to get the special meeting rate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On October 20, 1993, President Clinton signed Executive Order 12873, entitled "Federal Acquistion, Recycling and Waste Prevention," (58 FR 5411, October 22, 1993). Section 503 of Executive Order 12873 requires EPA to "issue guidance that recommends principles that Executive agencies should use in making determinations for the preference and purchase of environmentally preferable products." The proposed guidance for implementing this provision is published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register.

II. Process

This public meeting represents another stop in EPA's effort to make the development of section 503 guidance a public process. As a part of this process, EPA also developed a "concept paper" that outlined preliminary thoughts on how the guidance might be structured and some guiding principles for implementation of section 503. The public was given an opportunity to comment on the concept paper, both in writing and at a public meeting held in February 1994.

EPA also held meetings with "stakeholders" to give interested parties an additional opportunity to present their views on how EPA should proceed in developing principles for Executive agencies to use when making determinations for the preference and purchase of environmentally preferable products. EPA will continue to solicit input from all interested persons and organizations as EPA finalizes the guidance and conducts pilot projects.

To schedule oral testimony at the public meeting and to obtain a copy of the proposed guidance, contact EPA's Public Hearing Hotline, 110 Hartwell Avenue, Lexington, MA 02173–3198; telephone (617) 674–7374. Callers will receive mail confirmation of their scheduled testimony and logistical information. Persons who wish to make oral presentations must restrict testimony to 7 minutes and are also expected to provide three written copies of their completed comments for inclusion in the official record. If interested parties are unable to attend the public meetings, they are invited to submit written comments to the Agency.

III. Approach

The Agency has been directed by Executive Order 12873 to develop an approach for Federal acquisition of environmentally preferable products that not only minimizes environmental burden, but also provides incentives to industry to continuously improve the environmental performance of products and services to the Federal government. Ideally, the approach would guide Federal agencies in comparing environmental performance among competing products and services, so that the environmental impact becomes a criterion like cost or performance against which Federal agencies may select products or services.

In implementing section 503 of the Executive Order, EPA proposes an approach that has two components. The first is issuance of a broad, umbrella guidance. Following this, additional guidances focussing on specific product categories will be issued based on pilot projects. These pilots will help EPA and other Executive agencies identify and develop the necessary tools, education, and training materials to facilitate the application of the general guidance to actual purchases of environmental preferable products.

Dated: September 20, 1995. William H. Sanders III, Director, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics. [FR Doc. 95–24235 Filed 9–28–95; 8:45 am]

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