

Dated: January 7, 1997.
William D. Dickerson,
*Director, NEPA Compliance Division Office
of Federal Activities.*
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[FRL-5674-9]

Science Advisory Board; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meetings

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that several committees of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) will meet on the dates and times described below. All times noted are Eastern Daylight Time. All meetings are open to the public. Due to limited space, seating at meetings will be on a first-come basis. For further information concerning specific meetings, please contact the individuals listed below. Documents that are the subject of SAB reviews are normally available from the originating EPA office and are *not* available from the SAB Office.

1. Ecological Risk Subcommittee of the Integrated Risk Project (IRP)

The Ecological Risk Subcommittee of the Integrated Risk Project (IRP) of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) will hold a teleconference meeting on January 27 from 2:00 pm—4:30 pm to discuss the Subcommittee's draft methodology for assessing relative ecological risks from a variety of biological, chemical and physical stressors.

Background—In a letter dated October 25, 1995, Deputy Administrator Fred Hansen requested the SAB to update the assessment of environmental risks, priorities, and risk reduction opportunities contained in the 1990 SAB report, *Reducing Risk: Setting Priorities and Strategies for Environmental Protection* (EPA-SAB-EC-90-021). In response to that charge, the ERS has held a series of meetings over the past nine months and is now finalizing its recommendations and relative risk ranking methodology.

For Further Information—Single copies of *Reducing Risk*, the report of the previous relative risk ranking effort of the SAB, can be obtained by contacting the SAB's Committee Evaluation and Support Staff (1400), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, telephone (202) 260-8414, or fax (202) 260-1889. Anyone wishing to make an oral presentation at the teleconference must contact Ms. Stephanie Sanzone, Designated Federal Official for the Subcommittee, no later than 4:00 pm (Eastern Daylight Time)

January 22, 1997, at telephone (202) 260-6557, fax (202) 260-7118, or via the Internet at: Sanzone.Stephanie@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV. The request should identify the name of the individual who will make the presentation and an outline of the issues to be addressed.

2. Environmental Economics Advisory Committee (EEAC) and the Economic Analysis Subcommittee (EAS) of the Integrated Risk Project (IRP)

The Environmental Economic Advisory Committee, sitting as the Economic Analysis Subcommittee of the Integrated Risk Project Committee (IRP) of the Science Advisory Board (SAB), will meet on February 7, 1997, from 9:00 a.m. to no later than 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) in Room 2103 of Waterside Mall, US EPA, 401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460. This meeting is open to the public, however, due to limited space, seating will be on a first-come basis. The purpose of the meeting is to continue Committee efforts in support of the larger IRP effort of the SAB.

Background—In a letter dated October 25, 1995, Deputy Administrator Fred Hansen requested the SAB to update the assessment of environmental risks, priorities, and risk reduction opportunities contained in the 1990 SAB report, *Reducing Risk: Setting Priorities and Strategies for Environmental Protection* (EPA-SAB-EC-90-021). In subsequent discussions with the Deputy Administrator, the SAB has also agreed to provide insights on economic analysis of risk reduction options. The current charge to the Economic Analysis Subcommittee is to explore and report on ways to assess the economic values associated with regulatory options that the agency often proposes in response to its statutory mandates for environmental protection. This will be the second meeting of the Subcommittee on this issue.

For Further Information—Single copies of the information provided to the Subcommittee can be obtained by contacting Ms. Diana Pozun, Staff Secretary, Committee Operations Staff, Science Advisory Board (1400), US EPA, 401 M Street SW., Washington DC 20460, telephone (202) 260-6552, fax (202) 260-7118, or Internet at: Pozun.Diana@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV. Single copies of *Reducing Risk*, the report of the previous relative risk ranking effort of the SAB, can be obtained by contacting the SAB's Committee Evaluation and Support Staff (1400), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, telephone (202) 260-8414, or fax (202) 260-1889. Anyone wishing to

make an oral presentation at the meeting must contact Mr. Thomas Miller, Designated Federal Official for the Economic Analysis Subcommittee-IRP, *in writing* no later than 4:00 pm (Eastern Daylight Time) February 3, 1997, at the above address, via fax (202) 260-7118, or via the Internet at: Miller.Tom@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV. The request should identify the name of the individual who will make the presentation and an outline of the issues to be addressed. At least 35 copies of any written comments to the Committee are to be given to Mr. Miller no later than the time of the presentation for distribution to the Committee and the interested public. To discuss technical aspects of the meeting, please contact Mr. Miller by telephone at (202) 260-5886.

3. Valuation Subcommittee (VS) of the Integrated Risk Project (IRP)

The Valuation Subcommittee (Committee) of the Integrated Risk Project Committee (IRP) of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) will meet from February 19 through 21, 1997, from 9:00 am on February 19 to no later than 5:00 pm (Eastern Daylight Time) on February 21 at the Holiday Inn-Baltimore Inner Harbor, located at 30-1 W. Lombard Street, Baltimore, MD, 21201. This meeting is open to the public, however, due to limited space, seating will be on a first-come basis. The purpose of the meeting is to continue Committee efforts in support of the larger IRP effort of the SAB.

Background—In a letter dated October 25, 1995, Deputy Administrator Fred Hansen requested the SAB to update the assessment of environmental risks, priorities, and risk reduction opportunities contained in the 1990 SAB report, *Reducing Risk: Setting Priorities and Strategies for Environmental Protection* (EPA-SAB-EC-90-021). In subsequent discussions with the Deputy Administrator, the SAB has also agreed to provide insights on economic analysis of risk reduction options and ecosystem valuation. In summary, the current charge to the Valuation Subcommittee is to propose a new framework for assessing the value of ecosystems to humans, including ecological services and environmentally mediated health and quality of life values.

For Further Information—Single copies of the information provided to the Committee can be obtained by contacting Ms. Diana Pozun, Staff Secretary, Committee Operations Staff, Science Advisory Board (1400), US EPA, 401 M Street SW., Washington DC 20460, telephone (202) 260-6552, fax

(202) 260-7118, or Internet at: Pozun.Diana@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV. Single copies of Reducing Risk, the report of the previous relative risk ranking effort of the SAB, can be obtained by contacting the SAB's Committee Evaluation and Support Staff (1400), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460, telephone (202) 260-8414, or fax (202) 260-1889. Anyone wishing to make an oral presentation at the meeting must contact Mr. Thomas Miller, Designated Federal Official for the Valuation Subcommittee IRP, *in writing* no later than 4:00 pm (Eastern Daylight Time) February 12, 1997, at the above address, via fax (202) 260-7118, or via the Internet at: Miller.Tom@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV. The request should identify the name of the individual who will make the presentation and an outline of the issues to be addressed. At least 35 copies of any written comments to the Committee are to be given to Mr. Miller no later than the time of the presentation for distribution to the Committee and the interested public. To discuss technical aspects of the meeting, please contact Mr. Miller by telephone at (202) 260-5886.

Providing Oral or Written Comments at SAB Meetings

The Science Advisory Board expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted oral or written statements. In general, each individual or group making an oral presentation will be limited to a total time of ten minutes. For conference call meetings, opportunities for oral comment will be limited to no more than five minutes per speaker and no more than fifteen minutes total. Written comments (at least 35 copies) received in the SAB Staff Office sufficiently prior to a meeting date, may be mailed to the relevant SAB committee or subcommittee prior to its meeting; comments received too close to the meeting date will normally be provided to the committee at its meeting. Written comments may be provided to the relevant committee or subcommittee up until the time of the meeting.

Dated: January 2, 1997.

Donald G. Barnes,

Staff Director, Science Advisory Board.

[FR Doc. 97-646 Filed 1-9-97; 8:45 am]

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[FRL-5674-6]

CWA 303(d): Proposed Withdrawal of Phase I Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Copper in the New Jersey Waters of New York-New Jersey Harbor

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency, Region II (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA has determined that the New Jersey waters of the New York-New Jersey Harbor are not water quality-limited for copper, and therefore, Phase I copper TMDLs are not required for these water segments. EPA is hereby issuing public notice of its intent to withdraw the Phase I TMDL for copper established by EPA on January 24, 1996.

DATES: Comments on the proposed action must be submitted to EPA on or before February 10, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the relevant supporting documents may be obtained by writing to Ms. Rosella T. O'Connor, Fate & Effects Team, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region II, 290 Broadway, 24th Floor, New York, New York 10006-1866 or calling (212) 637-3823.

The administrative record containing background technical information is on file and may be inspected at the U.S. EPA, Region II office between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Arrangements to examine the administrative record may be made by contacting Ms. Rosella T. O'Connor.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Rosella T. O'Connor, telephone (212) 637-3823.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Proposed Action

I. Background

A TMDL, or total maximum daily load, is the maximum amount of the pollutant that a waterbody can assimilate and still meet ambient water quality standards. TMDLs are established for water quality-limited segments, which are defined as "any segment where it is known that water quality does not meet applicable water quality standards, and/or is not expected to meet applicable water quality standards, even after the application of technology-based effluent limitations * * *" (40 CFR 130.2(i)).

On January 24, 1996, EPA established certain phased TMDLs, including waste load allocations (WLAs) and load allocations (LAs) for copper and mercury. (61 FR 1930). Phased TMDLs

were developed for copper and mercury because of the limited ambient data and uncertainty in the model calibration for the New Jersey Harbor waters. The Phase I TMDLs established in January 1996 required additional data collection in the New Jersey Harbor waters before the establishment, as necessary, of revised Phase II TMDLs. Phase II TMDLs were to be established only if the additional data and/or modeling indicated that it was necessary to reduce point and/or nonpoint sources of certain metals below Phase I levels. The New Jersey Harbor waters are Newark Bay, Hackensack River below the Oradell Dam, Passaic River below the Dundee Dam, Raritan River below the Fieldville Dam and Raritan Bay.

The New Jersey Harbor Dischargers Group (NJHDG), in cooperation with the State of New Jersey and EPA, agreed to undertake the required additional monitoring and modeling. The first phase of the monitoring was designed to enhance the existing ambient data base and to confirm whether copper, lead, nickel and mercury exceed or potentially exceed applicable water quality standards in the New Jersey Harbor waters. Based on the results of this data collection effort, it was determined that certain metals and/or New Jersey Harbor waters would require additional monitoring and modeling to develop Phase II TMDLs. These data are contained in a report entitled, "Summary of the Phase I Metals Sampling and Analysis Program for the New Jersey Component of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program" (March 5 and 26, 1996). The monitoring program included one station in each of the Hackensack, Passaic, and Raritan Rivers, and in Raritan and Newark Bays. Each of these stations was sampled twice per month for six months (from June 1995 through December 1995). The twelve sampling events included three wet-weather and two tidal cycle events. Overall, ninety water samples and five sediment samples were collected in twelve sampling events over a six month study period. These data were used to project water quality exceedances of copper, mercury, nickel and lead in the New Jersey waters of the Harbor.

Based on the ambient water quality data contained in the above-referenced report, EPA has determined the following:

- The New Jersey Harbor waters are not water quality-limited for copper, neither Phase I nor Phase II copper TMDLs are required. EPA is, therefore, proposing to withdraw the Phase I copper TMDLs promulgated on January 24, 1996;