

humans be determined and considered; and (4) under what circumstances might an approved indication for marketing refer to manifestations of disease (biochemical, physiological, anatomic, or pathological processes) common to, or present in, one or more disease states?

Interested parties may want to review section 122 of the FDAMA and a draft regulation for radiopharmaceuticals submitted by the Council on Radionuclides and Radiopharmaceuticals (CORAR). Both the FDAMA and the CORAR proposal have been filed under the docket number found in the heading of this document, and they are available on the Internet.

**Electronic Access:** Persons with access to the Internet may obtain the FDAMA and the CORAR proposal using the World Wide Web (www) by connecting to "www.fda.gov/cber/misc.htm".

**Registration and Requests for Oral Presentations:** Send registration information (including name, title, firm name, address, telephone, and fax number) and written material and requests to make oral presentations, by February 18, 1998, to Gloria S. Blankenship, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (HFM-43), Food and Drug Administration, 1401 Rockville Pike, suite 200N, Rockville, MD 20852-1448, 301-827-1310, FAX 301-827-3079, e-mail "Blankenship@CBER.FDA.GOV". Registration at the site will be done on a space available basis on the day of the public meeting beginning at 7:30 a.m.

If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact Gloria Blankenship (address above) at least 7 days before the meeting.

**Transcripts:** Transcripts of the meeting may be requested in writing from the Freedom of Information Office (HFI-35), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, rm. 12A-16, Rockville, MD 20857, approximately 15 working days after the meeting at a cost of 10 cents per page.

Dated: January 26, 1998.

**William K. Hubbard,**

*Associate Commissioner for Policy Coordination.*

[FR Doc. 98-2322 Filed 1-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-F

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### 40 CFR Part 52

[IA-037-1037b; FRL-5955-3]

#### Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The EPA proposes to approve the State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the state of Iowa for the purpose of updating regulations of the state's two local air pollution control agencies. These agencies are the Polk County Public Works Department and Linn County Health Department.

In the final rules section of the **Federal Register**, the EPA is approving the state's SIP revision as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial revision amendment and anticipates no adverse comments. The general rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no adverse comments are received in response to this proposed rule, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this rule. If the EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. The EPA will not institute a second comment period on this document. Any parties interested in commenting on this document should do so at this time.

**DATES:** Comments on this proposed rule must be received in writing by March 4, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be mailed to Christopher D. Hess, Environmental Protection Agency, Air Planning and Development Branch, 726 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66101.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher D. Hess at (913) 551-7213.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** See the information provided in the direct final rule which is located in the rules section of the **Federal Register**.

Dated: December 30, 1997.

**Diane Callier,**

*Acting Regional Administrator, Region VII.*

[FR Doc. 98-2487 Filed 1-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Research and Special Programs Administration

#### 49 CFR Parts 192, 195

[Docket No. RSPA-98-3347; Notice 1]

#### Pipeline Safety: Plastic Pipeline Safety Standards

**AGENCY:** Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Research and Special Programs Administration, Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) invites representatives of the pipeline industry, state and local government, and the public to an open meeting on the Federal gas pipeline safety regulations on plastic pipe system design, construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation in transmission, distribution, and service line applications. The meeting is scheduled to coincide with meetings of the American Gas Association (AGA) Plastic Materials Committee scheduled for the week of March 4, 1998, in Phoenix, Arizona. The purpose of this meeting is to gather information on experience with the current Federal pipeline safety regulations on plastic pipe design, construction, and maintenance and to solicit comments and suggestions to improve these regulations. In particular, OPS seeks comment on whether current regulations should be revised, supplemented, or replaced by references to applicable industry standards and recommended practices.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 1998, at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona, from 9:00 a.m. until all interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to speak. Interested persons are invited to attend the meeting and present oral or written statements. Persons wishing to speak at the meeting should notify Jenny Donohue at (202) 366-4046 by the close of business on Friday, February 27, 1998. Please estimate the time that will be required for your presentation. RSPA reserves the right to limit the time of each speaker to ensure that everyone is allowed sufficient time. Other speakers may present statements as time allows.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix Hotel, 122 North Second Street, Phoenix, Arizona. The telephone number of the hotel is (602) 252-1234.

## Comments

Persons unable to attend the meeting or who wish to comment in writing may submit written comments by May 4, 1998, to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Comments should identify the docket number of this notice (RSPA-98-3347). Persons should submit the original document and one (1) copy. Persons wishing to receive confirmation of receipt of their comments must include a stamped, self-addressed postcard. Alternatively, comments may be submitted via e-mail to 'OPS.COMMENTS@RSPA.DOT.GOV'. The Dockets Facility is located on the plaza level of the Nassif Building in Room Number 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC. The Dockets Facility is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gopala K. Vinjamuri, (202) 366-4503, U.S. Department of Transportation, RSPA, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20590, or by e-mail at 'GOPALA.VINJAMURI@RSPA.DOT.GOV', regarding the subject matter of this notice.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

To further the goals of the President's National Performance Review (NPR) and Regulatory Reinvention Initiative (RRI), RSPA is reviewing the gas pipeline regulations that address plastic pipe systems design, installation, and operations in transmission, distribution, and service line applications. This review seeks to eliminate or revise those regulations that are outdated, ambiguous, or in need of reform. In conducting this review, OPS will endeavor to increase its use of standards developed by voluntary consensus standards bodies. See Pub. L. 104-113 "The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995," and "Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A119."

OPS has organized this public meeting to coincide with the AGA Plastics Materials Committee meetings to encourage attendance by technical experts, pipeline operators, state pipeline safety officials, and other interested parties. OPS believes this forum is a good opportunity for the public to discuss plastic pipeline regulatory issues and suggest ways to enhance pipeline safety.

Natural gas utilities in the United States have been using plastic piping in underground gas distribution systems for over three decades. Presently, over

85 percent of the gas distribution and service lines, constituting over 500,000 miles, are installed using polyethylene pipe. Apart from occasional failures, mostly caused by third-party excavation damage, the safety performance of plastic pipe systems has been excellent, and the Federal pipeline safety regulations have been sufficient to ensure public safety. However, as plastic pipeline technology continues to improve, and the gas distribution infrastructure incorporates advanced plastics materials, installation methods, and operational techniques, there is a need to reexamine industry standards and the Federal regulations. Further, other critical issues, such as the long-term performance of the plastic piping installed in 1960s and 1970s, need to be addressed.

OPS is conducting this public meeting to elicit a free exchange of concerns, ideas, and technical knowledge among the attendees and the federal regulators. OPS seeks input on any concerns and comments the public has with the pipeline safety regulations on plastic pipe, and components in gas transmission, distribution, and service applications. In particular, OPS would like to know:

(1) Should the plastic pipe regulations accommodate different standards for new plastic materials, higher operating pressures, higher operating temperatures, and modern installation, and maintenance technologies?

(2) Are the current plastic pipeline regulations too general, too performance oriented, or too prescriptive? Should the regulations address design safety, testing of valves and fittings, and the use of joints with metal transition fittings? Do the regulations need an added level of safety for large-diameter pipe and fittings?

(3) Should OPS be concerned about the performance of large-diameter coiled plastic pipe? Is trenchless installation for large-diameter pipe an appropriate procedure?

(4) Should the pipeline safety regulations include procedures that address fusion welding of thick-walled pipe?

(5) Should there be specific requirements for natural gas plastic distribution and service lines and components in earthquake and other natural disaster-prone regions?

(6) Should the federal pipeline safety regulations address requirements for leak detection, leak surveying, and leak detection equipment?

(7) Are there other national standards that OPS should consider referencing?

(8) Should OPS consider adopting into the regulations the principles expressed in past waivers?

OPS welcomes comments on the above questions, and other issues regarding the regulation of plastic pipe in transmission, distribution, and service line applications. Because OPS's goal is to receive input from all interested parties attending the meeting, it will not prepare a formal agenda.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on January 27, 1998.

**Richard B. Felder,**

*Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.*

[FR Doc. 98-2455 Filed 1-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### 50 CFR Part 18

RIN 1018-AE26

#### Importation of Polar Bear Trophies From Canada: Addition of Populations to the List of Areas Approved for Import

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** This rule announces proposed findings on the import of polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) taken in sport hunts in the areas formerly known as Parry Channel-Baffin Bay and Queen Elizabeth Islands, Northwest Territories (NWT), Canada, under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service summarizes the new research data used by Canada to redefine these areas into five populations: Queen Elizabeth Islands, Norwegian Bay, Kane Basin, Lancaster Sound, and Baffin Bay, and provides a summary of the Nunavut Land Claim and the new Flexible Quota Option. The Service proposes to find that Lancaster Sound and Norwegian Bay meet the requirements of the MMPA and to add them to the list of approved populations in the regulations. Further, the Service proposes to defer the decision on the remaining three populations, Queen Elizabeth Islands, Baffin Bay, and Kane Basin.

**DATES:** The Service will consider comments and information received by March 4, 1998 in formulating its decision on this proposed rule.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and information should be sent to: Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, c/o Office of