

its ADR programs and continually improving them to better meet the needs of EPA offices, Regions, and external stakeholders.

Several EPA offices and Regions have already evaluated their ADR efforts. To build on these evaluations and to strengthen the evaluation component of ADR practice across the Agency, the CPRC, consulting with internal and external stakeholders, will develop an evaluation system for ADR at EPA. The evaluation system will include goals and both qualitative and quantitative measures of success.

Where Can I Get Additional Information or Help With ADR at EPA?

Additional information on ADR contacts within EPA, topics covered in this policy, and others, may be obtained from the CPRC at (202) 564-2922.

What Is the Legal Authority for this Policy?

This policy satisfies the requirement of the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act of 1996, 5 U.S.C. 571-583, that each federal agency adopt a policy that addresses the use of ADR. The policy is also consistent with the following federal statutes, regulations, and orders:

- Regulatory Negotiation Act of 1996, 5 U.S.C. 561-570
- Civil Justice Reform Act, 28 U.S.C. 471-482
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of 1998, 28 U.S.C. 651-658
- Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act, 41 U.S.C. 405
- Contracts Disputes Act, 41 U.S.C. 601-613
- Federal Acquisition Regulation, 48 CFR 33.103 & 33.204
- Federal Sector Equal Employment Opportunity Regulations, 29 CFR part 1614
- Civil Justice Reform, Executive Order 12988, 61 FR 4729 (Feb. 5, 1996)
- Agency Procurement Protests, Executive Order 12979, 60 FR 55171 (Oct. 27, 1995)
- Presidential Memorandum, "Designation of Interagency Committees to Facilitate and Encourage Use of Alternative Means of Dispute Resolution and Negotiated Rulemaking," May 1, 1998

Request for Public Comment

The Environmental Protection Agency invites public comment on this draft document. Comments should be received by December 5, 2000.

Dated: September 29, 2000.

Carol Browner,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00-25749 Filed 10-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6883-2]

Draft EPA Guidelines for Management of Onsite/Decentralized Wastewater Systems and Guidance Manual Outline

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability for comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is making available for review and comment a draft of its Guidelines for Management of Onsite/Decentralized Wastewater Systems and an outline for a guidance manual that will be developed to supplement the guidelines. The purpose of the guidelines is to raise the level of performance of onsite/decentralized wastewater systems through improved management programs. Onsite/decentralized wastewater treatment systems include individual onsite or cluster wastewater systems (commonly referred to as septic systems, private sewage systems, individual sewage systems, etc.) used to treat and dispose of relatively small volumes of wastewater, generally from individual dwellings, or groups of dwellings and businesses which are located relatively close together. EPA is proposing the voluntary national guidelines in order to raise the quality of management programs, establish minimum levels of activity, and institutionalize the concept of management. Implementation of the guidelines will provide a greater range of options for cost-effectively meeting wastewater needs and meeting water quality and public health goals.

The guidelines contain a set of model programs, based on a comprehensive approach that relies on coordinating the responsibilities and actions among the state, tribal or local regulatory agency, the management entity or service provider and the system owner(s). These model programs are structured to reflect a need for more comprehensive management as the sensitivity of the environment and/or the degree of technological complexity increases. A program's designation increases progressively from Model Program 1 through Model Program 5, reflecting the increased level of management activities needed to achieve water quality and

public health goals. Adoption of the guidelines is voluntary and EPA encourages that communities to consider the guidelines as a basis for their onsite/decentralized wastewater management program.

The guidelines apply to both existing communities and to areas of new development that use onsite/decentralized systems of any size for residential and commercial wastewater treatment and disposal.

DATES: Email or written comments are requested by December 5, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments can be submitted online at <http://www.epa.gov/owm/smallc/guidelines.htm>, emailed to decentralized@epa.gov, via U.S. mail to Joyce Hudson, US EPA, Office of Wastewater Management (4204), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460, or faxed to (202) 260-0116.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any questions regarding the content of EPA's Guidelines for Management of Onsite/Decentralized Wastewater Systems can be addressed to Joyce Hudson by email at hudson.joyce@epa.gov. Additional copies of the documents may be obtained by calling Melanie Montalvo, the EPA contractor, at (703) 934-2323 or by downloading the documents at <http://www.epa.gov/owm/smallc/guidelines.htm>

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In April, 1997, EPA prepared a "Response to Congress on the Use of Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems." The report concluded that alternative treatment technologies offer a cost-effective, long term wastewater solution for many communities. However, the report emphasized that these "decentralized" (onsite and small cluster) technologies must be implemented in the context of a responsible management program to consistently achieve water quality and public health goals. The report identified the current lack of management as a barrier to successfully applying these otherwise promising technologies.

The development of management standards for decentralized wastewater treatment systems was therefore included in the Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP) as Action Item 77B. In fulfillment of this action item, EPA prepared a concept paper in the spring of 1999, which was gradually developed into a set of voluntary national guidelines for the management of onsite and decentralized wastewater systems. The guidelines which we are proposing for formal public comment have been developed with considerable input from

various stakeholders, including other Federal agencies, State health agencies, environmental groups, trade associations and public interest groups. Based on comments received, a detailed outline was developed and comments were once again solicited, which led to the draft document in this notice.

Onsite/decentralized systems currently serve about 25 percent of the U.S. population and approximately 40 percent of new development. The vast majority of these systems are conventional onsite wastewater systems (septic systems). States report that these wastewater systems have failed because of inappropriate siting or design or inadequate long-term maintenance and that septic tank systems constitute the third most common source of ground water contamination.

The final guidelines will be accompanied by a guidance manual. An outline of this guidance manual is also available for review and comment. The final manual will provide details on assessing, developing, implementing, and sustaining a viable management program. The guidelines for management and the accompanying guidance manual are scheduled for completion in the Summer of 2001. Prior to completion, EPA will reach out to interested parties, primarily through discussions with national and State-level organizations to gain input.

Dated: September 27, 2000.

J. Charles Fox,

Assistant Administrator for Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

[FR Doc. 00-25743 Filed 10-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6882-1]

Public Water System Supervision Program Revision for the State of Florida

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of tentative approval.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the State of Florida is revising its approved Public Water System Supervision Program. Florida has adopted drinking water regulations requiring consumer confidence reports from all community water systems. EPA has determined that these revisions are no less stringent than the corresponding federal regulations. Therefore, EPA intends on approving this State program revision.

All interested parties may request a public hearing. A request for a public hearing must be submitted by November 6, 2000 to the Regional Administrator at the address shown below. Frivolous or insubstantial requests for a hearing may be denied by the Regional Administrator. However, if a substantial request for a public hearing is made by November 6, 2000, a public hearing will be held. If no timely and appropriate request for a hearing is received and the Regional Administrator does not elect to hold a hearing on his own motion, this determination shall become final and effective on November 6, 2000. Any request for a public hearing shall include the following information: (1) The name, address, and telephone number of the individual organization, or other entity requesting a hearing; (2) A brief statement of the requesting person's interest in the Regional Administrator's determination and a brief statement of the information that the requesting person intends to submit at such hearing; (3) The signature of the individual making the request, or, if the request is made on behalf of an organization or other entity, the signature of a responsible official of the organization or other entity.

ADDRESSES: All documents relating to this determination are available for inspection between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the following offices: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 2600 Blairstone Road, Tallahassee, Florida 32399 or at the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Drinking Water Section, 61 Forsyth Street Southwest, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bonita Johnson, EPA Region 4, Drinking Water Section at the Atlanta address given above or by telephone at (404) 562-9442.

Authority: (Section 1420 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (1996), and 40 CFR part 142 of the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations)

A. Stanley Meiburg,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 4.

[FR Doc. 00-25748 Filed 10-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[DA 00-2171 and DA 00-2232]

Comment Sought on Reserve Prices or Minimum Opening Bids and Other Auction Procedural Issues; Auction of Additional FM Broadcast Construction Permits To Be Included in Auction No. 37 Scheduled for February 21, 2001

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document announces the auction of certain FM broadcast construction permits to commence February 21, 2001.

DATES: Comments regarding the vacant FM allotments listed in Attachment A of DA 00-2171 ("Auction No. 37 Comment Public Notice") are due on or before October 9, 2000. Comments regarding the eight additional vacant FM allotments listed in DA 00-2232 ("Addendum Public Notice") are due on or before October 13, 2000. All reply comments are due on or before October 23, 2000.

ADDRESSES: To file formally, parties must submit an original and four copies to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 Twelfth Street, SW, TW-A325, Washington, DC 20054. In addition, parties must submit one copy to Louis Sigalos, Deputy Division Chief, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 445 Twelfth Street, SW, Suite 4-A668, Washington, DC 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathy Garland, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at (717) 338-2888; Kenneth Burnley, Legal Branch, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at (202) 418-0660; or Lisa Scanlan, Audio Services Division, Mass Media Bureau at (202) 418-2700.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of two Public Notices, DA 00-2171 ("Auction No. 37 Comment Public Notice") and DA 00-2232 ("Addendum Public Notice"), released September 25, 2000 and September 29, 2000 respectively. The complete text of the public notices, including attachments, is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room CY-A257), 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC. It may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Services, Inc. (ITS, Inc.) 1231 20th Street, NW,