

must submit fees by July 21, 2003. However, agricultural sources should note that EPA has published a direct final rule and parallel proposal to amend these regulations to defer fees for agricultural sources. 68 FR 25507 (May 13, 2003); 68 FR 25548 (May 13, 2003). For other types of sources, refer to 40 CFR 71.9(f)(1) for fee submittal deadlines.

As we noted in the final rulemaking for the 34 other districts in California, EPA is committing to provide additional guidance on the implementation of the part 71 program for new major stationary agricultural sources. The additional guidance, which EPA will make widely available through direct outreach to potentially subject sources and through other means, will provide clearer direction as to the types and sizes of operations that are presumptively major under the title V program.

In line with this commitment, EPA is developing streamlined application forms² and user-friendly instructions for agricultural sources. The documents, along with regularly updated information, are available at a web page dedicated to the topic of title V permitting for agricultural sources in California.³ The Web site is at: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/air/ca/title5app.html>. It should be noted that it is ultimately the responsibility of the source to submit a permit application if it is subject to the part 71 program, regardless of whether contact is initiated by EPA or any other regulatory authority.

If you have questions, EPA has also implemented a toll-free voicemail hotline as well as a dedicated e-mail address for any agricultural-permit-related questions. The phone number and e-mail address are listed below and can also be found on the Web site.

Toll-free voicemail hotline: 1-800-810-9798

E-mail: farmpermits@epa.gov

An owner or operator of a source may request a part 71 applicability determination from EPA. Pursuant to 40 CFR 71.3(e), the written request shall be

made by the source's responsible official to the EPA Region IX Regional Administrator, shall include identification of the source and relevant facts about the source, and shall meet the certification requirements of 40 CFR 71.5(d).

III. Notification of Part 71 Program Effectiveness

Section 71.4(g) requires that, in taking action to implement and enforce a part 71 program, EPA shall publish a notice in the **Federal Register** informing the public of such action and the effective date of any part 71 program. By this notice, EPA is today informing the public of the Agency's implementation of the part 71 federal operating permits program for major stationary sources located within the jurisdiction of Antelope Valley APCD. The effective date of this program is January 21, 2003.

In addition to today's **Federal Register** notice, EPA will also, to the extent practicable, publish notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the Antelope Valley APCD area in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 71.4(g). Finally, in accordance with 40 CFR 71.4(g), EPA has provided a letter to Winston H. Hickox, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency, as California Governor Gray Davis' designee, to provide notice of the effectiveness of EPA's part 71 program for major stationary sources in Antelope Valley APCD.

Dated: June 12, 2003.

Alexis Strauss,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region IX.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ND-001-0010; FRL-7516-8]

Notice of Availability of Dispersion Modeling Analysis of PSD Class I Increment Consumption in North Dakota and Eastern Montana

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The EPA is hereby extending for 8 days the public comment period established by the May 23, 2003, notice of availability of a dispersion modeling analysis of Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) increment consumption in North Dakota and eastern Montana. EPA's air quality modeling analysis is contained in a

report titled *Dispersion Modeling Analysis of PSD Class I Increment Consumption in North Dakota and Eastern Montana* (May 2003).

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 1, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be mailed to Richard R. Long, Director, Air and Radiation Program, Mailcode 8P-AR, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region VIII, 999 18th Street, Suite 300, Denver, Colorado, 80202. The Report and supporting documentation are available on EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/region8/air/ndair.html>. Copies of the Report and supporting documentation and data are also available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Air and Radiation Program, Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, 999 18th Street, Suite 300, Denver, Colorado, 80202. Interested persons should contact the person listed below to arrange a time to view the Report.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carl Daly, EPA, Region VIII, (303) 312-6416.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document extends the public comment period established in the **Federal Register** issued on May 23, 2003 (68 FR 28211). In that document, EPA provided a notice of availability of a dispersion modeling analysis of Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) increment consumption in North Dakota and eastern Montana. EPA's air quality modeling analysis is contained in a report titled *Dispersion Modeling Analysis of PSD Class I Increment Consumption in North Dakota and Eastern Montana* (May 2003). The results of this analysis show numerous violations of the Class I PSD increments for sulfur dioxide (SO₂) in four Class I areas. These Class I areas are the Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the Lostwood Wilderness Area in North Dakota and the Medicine Lakes Wilderness Area and Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana. The EPA is soliciting additional public comments on this analysis before taking any further actions. EPA is hereby extending the comment period, which was set to end on June 23, 2003, to July 1, 2003. This extension is in response to requests from interested stakeholders. EPA is extending the comment period 8 days in order to be consistent with the comment period extension granted by the North Dakota Department of Health to their public process on the issue of Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) increment consumption in North Dakota and eastern Montana.

² If an owner or operator of a subject source prefers to use the standard part 71 permit application, those forms, as well as instructions for completing the forms, are available electronically at www.epa.gov/air/oagps/permits/p71forms.html. Part 71 permit applicants may also contact the EPA Region IX Air Permits Office as described in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

³ Note that the Web site lists an application deadline of May 14, 2003. This deadline applies only to the 34 other districts in California. The application deadline for all major stationary sources in Antelope Valley APCD that do not have a title V permit is January 21, 2004.

Dated: June 16, 2003.

Robert E. Roberts,

Regional Administrator, Region VIII.

[FR Doc. 03-15764 Filed 6-20-03; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7516-6]

Science Advisory Board, Environmental Economics Advisory Committee, Advisory Panel on the Environmental Economics Research Strategy; Request for Nominations

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) is establishing a panel to review the EPA's Environmental Economics Research Strategy. The panel will consist of members of the EPA SAB Environmental Economics Advisory Committee (EEAC) to which will be added additional experts to constitute the Advisory Panel on the Environmental Economics Research Strategy (APEERS).

DATES: Nominations should be submitted no later than July 14, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be submitted in electronic format through the Form for Nominating Individuals to Panels of the EPA Science Advisory Board provided on the SAB Web site, <http://www.epa.gov/sab>. To be considered, all nominations must include the information required on that form. Anyone who is unable to submit nominations via this form may contact Thomas O. Miller, Designated Federal Officer as indicated below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any member of the public wishing further information regarding this Request for Nominations may contact Thomas O. Miller, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), via telephone/voice mail at (202) 564-4558; or via e-mail at miller.tom@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Science Advisory Board is establishing a panel to review EPA's Environmental Economics Research Strategy (EERS). The panel will consist of members of the SAB Environmental Economics Advisory Committee to which will be added experts to form the Advisory Panel on the Environmental Economics Research Strategy (APEERS). The Strategy draws together all relevant research needs of the EPA offices and

laboratories into an understandable framework for guiding EPA's research planning and implementation in this topical area.

The SAB was established by 42 U.S.C. 4365 to provide independent scientific and technical advice, consultation, and recommendations to the EPA Administrator on the technical basis for Agency positions and regulations. General information about the SAB can be found in the SAB Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/sab>.

The project the panel will undertake is expected to be no more than a six-month effort. Over that period, the panel will comply with the provisions of FACA and all appropriate SAB procedural policies, including the SAB process for panel formation described in the Overview of the Panel Formation Process at the Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board, which can be found on the SAB's Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab/pdf/ec02010.pdf>. Those selected to serve on the panel will review the draft materials identified in this notice and respond to the charge questions provided below. Upon completion, the panel's report will be submitted to the SAB Executive Committee for final approval.

Background: The EPA Science Advisory Board was asked by the National Center for Environmental Economics (NCEE) and the Office of Research and Development's National Center for Environmental Research (ORD/NCER) to review the EPA Environmental Economics Research Strategy.

The "Strategy" integrates together all relevant research conducted by EPA offices and laboratories and provides a blueprint for economic research priorities for the agency. The Strategy " * * identifies priorities and research gaps, evaluates research tools, sets out strategic research objectives and suggests responsibilities and sequences for conducting or sponsoring research." These research needs were developed from an initial survey of EPA economists who identified research topics for consideration. The top ten categories identified were: Valuation of reduced morbidity benefits; environmental behavior and decision-making; valuation of ecological benefits; benefits of environmental information disclosure; valuation of mortality benefits; market mechanisms and incentives other than trading; green accounting-international trade-finance; market mechanisms and incentives—trading; discounting-intergenerational equity; and risk and uncertainty techniques-integration with valuation. Research will be conducted externally

through cooperative agreements, grants, contracts, and internally at EPA's National Center for Environmental Economics and in relevant EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD) National Laboratories and Centers.

The identified research priorities were evaluated by EPA staff in relation to four criteria in order to select the areas that EPA would emphasize in its research program. The selection criteria used require that research must: be needed by EPA, state, or other clients; reflect a gap in the existing knowledge base (*i.e.*, not have been conducted already); be scientifically feasible and potentially of high quality; and be related to EPA's mission in a policy-relevant context and be able to come to conclusions on the topic within 5 to 10 years. The selected objectives for EPA's economics research focus, include: environmental (compliance) behavior and decision-making; benefits of environmental information disclosure; ecological valuation; health valuation; and market mechanisms and incentives. The Science Advisory Board Review Draft of EPA's research strategy for environmental economics can be found at the SAB's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/sab/>.

Proposed Charge to the Panel: The following is the accepted charge that has been given to the Science Advisory Board by the Agency:

Charge Question 1: For each of the major subject areas described in the EERS, EPA has attempted to articulate the research questions most relevant to EPA that can be effectively addressed given the available tools and resources. In this context, please address the following for the key research questions identified in the EERS in each of the subject areas.

(a) Is the characterization of each of the major research gaps in the literature for the key subject areas of relevance to EPA's economic sciences, as identified in the EERS adequate? Will these priorities and implementation approaches effectively address the areas of greatest scientific uncertainty?

(b) Given the implementation strategy laid out in the EERS;

—To what extent is this research scientifically feasible at a high level of quality?

—How successful is this research likely to be in answering policy-relevant questions for EPA within the next 8–10 years?

(c) What improvements in the design and implementation of the EERS would make each research project more useful to EPA and other environmental management agencies?