

ACTION: Floodplain statement of findings.

SUMMARY: This floodplain statement of findings is for the construction of a multiple permeable reactive barrier (PRB) at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The PRB will be placed across a floodplain area within Mortandad Canyon, located within the central eastern portion of LANL. In accordance with 10 CFR part 1022, the Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Los Alamos Site Office has prepared a floodplain/wetland assessment and will perform this proposed action in a manner so as to minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplain.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Withers, U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Los Alamos Site Office, 528 35th Street, Los Alamos, NM 87544. Telephone (505) 667-8690, facsimile (505) 667-9998; or electronic address: ewithers@doeal.gov. For further information on general DOE floodplain environmental review requirements, contact: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, EH-42, Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington DC 20585-0119. Telephone (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756, facsimile (202) 586-7031.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetlands environmental review requirements (10 CFR part 1022), NNSA prepared a floodplain/wetland assessment for this action. The NNSA published a notice of floodplain involvement (Volume 67, Number 236). This notice announced that the floodplain/wetland assessment document was available for a 15-day review period and that copies of the document could be obtained by contacting Ms. Withers at the above address, and that copies of the document were available for review at two public DOE reading rooms in Los Alamos and Albuquerque, New Mexico. No comments were received from the **Federal Register** notice on the proposed floodplain action.

Project Description: In November 2002, NNSA considered a proposal for constructing a PRB system at a narrow constriction in Mortandad Canyon within LANL where contaminated groundwater is confined to a small cross-section of alluvial materials (see figure 1). The entire PRB structure would extend about 120 feet from side-wall to side-wall within the canyon

bottom. The PRB would consist of a "funnel and gate" system to direct contaminated groundwater into a centrally-located gate area of reactive materials. The impermeable funnel would be constructed of sheet piling driven to a depth of approximately 27 feet on either side of the canyon. The permeable gate would contain multiple buried cells of selected media designed to react with and reduce the concentration of contaminants in groundwater passing through the gate. The PRB would be left in place for about 5 years and its function would be monitored through a system of shallow monitoring wells that would be installed at the same time the PRB was constructed. Construction of the PRB and associated monitoring wells will commence in 2003 and be completed in less than 6 months.

Alternatives: Alternative locations for the PRB were considered but eliminated from future consideration. A combination of site factors was considered that lead to the identification of the proposed site as being the least disruptive to existing environmental resources in the area.

Floodplain Impacts: The proposed action would have the potential for minimal impacts to the floodplain. Should a rain event occur during this activity, there may be some sediment movement down canyon because of the loosened condition of the soil from the clearing and construction activities.

Floodplain Mitigation: Impacts to the floodplain would be minimized by following Best Management Practices at the construction area (such as the placement of silt fences, straw bales or wattles, or wooden or rock structures to slow down water runoff and run-on at cleared sites). Post-construction reseeding and re-vegetation along the sides of the stream channel will minimize soil disturbance and reduce or prevent the potential for soil erosion. No debris will be left at the work site. No vehicle maintenance or fueling would occur within 100 feet of the stream channel. Any sediment movement from the site would be short term and temporary.

Issued in Los Alamos on December 20, 2002.

Ralph E. Erickson,

*Manager, U.S. Department of Energy,
National Nuclear Security Administration,
Los Alamos Site Office.*

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7433-8]

EPA Science Advisory Board; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meetings

1. Summary

(a) **Action**—Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB) has established the Science and Technology Review Panel (S&TRP) to review EPA's Science and Technology Budget Request for 2004. This notice solicits comments from the public on the panel that has been established. Also being announced is a series of meetings in January, February, and March 2003 during which the Panel will conduct the review (dates and times are noted below and all times noted are Eastern Time). All meetings will be open to the public, however, seating is limited and available on a first come basis. **Important Notice:** Documents that are the subject of SAB reviews are normally available from the originating EPA office and are not available from the SAB Office—information concerning availability of documents from the relevant Program Office is included below.

(b) **Background**—The Office of Research and Development (ORD) is viewed as the lead science office at EPA, however, only about half of the science conducted by the Agency is performed by ORD. Each of the Program Offices and Regions conduct scientific activities which range from risk assessments to laboratory analyses. To ensure that the science conducted at EPA is well planned, organized and coordinated, EPA has, since 1999, requested that the SAB review and comment on the entire EPA Science and Technology budget. Prior to that time the SAB's Research Strategies Advisory Committee had conducted an annual review of the Office of Research and Development's R&D budget request.

The EPA SAB's mission is to provide independent advice on the scientific and technical information used to support the Agency's actions to implement its own mission of protecting human health and safeguarding the natural environment. SAB advice is given on a wide ranging set of programs and Agency science and technical products (e.g., science programs, guidelines, documents, methodologies, protocols, tests, criteria documents, standards for protection of human

health and the environment). The S&T budget review is a small, and focused, part of the SAB's activities that result in advice to the EPA Administrator on the Agency's scientific and technical programs. The review gives the SAB an opportunity to look at an integrated view of these programs.

(c) *The Charge*. The Agency Charge to the SAB asks for advice on its Science and Technology Budget Request for FY 2004. The specific Charge to the SAB is posted on the SAB Web site at www.epa.gov/sab/.

(d) *Approach to Conducting the Review*—The Science Advisory Board has determined that the Panel for conducting this review should be composed of members of the SAB's Research Strategies Advisory Committee (RSAC), supplemented by a small number of members from other SAB standing committees. Collectively, these members have broad expertise in the environmental sciences and their expertise is appropriate to address EPA's charge. Further, these SAB members have been appointed by the Administrator, to provide advice on broad issues of research planning, budgeting, and management as well as a variety of specific scientific and technical issues.

(e) *Public Comments Solicited*—By this notice, the public is invited to comment on the panel members who have been identified to serve on this review panel. Biographical sketches of the panel members who have been identified for this review panel can be found on the SAB Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/SAB/whatsnew.htm> in early January, 2003. The public is invited to provide the EPA Science Advisory Board with information or analyses pertinent to the service of any of these individuals on the review. Information, preferably in electronic form, must be received no later than January 20, 2003. Information sent by mail should be addressed to Mr. Thomas O. Miller, Designated Federal Officer, SAB Science and Technology Review Panel (see contact information below). The final roster of the participating SAB members will be placed on the SAB Web site no later than January 21, 2003.

2. Meeting Information

In January, the S&TRP will prepare for their review of the EPA Science and Technology (S&T) component of the FY 2004 President's Budget request by holding two telephone conference call meetings to receive background briefings from EPA on programs that are covered by the S&T budget. At a face-to-face meeting in February, the Panel

will review the EPA Fiscal Year 2004 S&T Budget Request and prepare a draft report on the Panel's findings and recommendations. A contingency telephone conference meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 21, 2003 if necessary for gaining closure on the review.

The telephone conference meetings will be coordinated from the EPA Science Advisory Board Conference Room (room 6013), USEPA, Ariel Rios Building North, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20004. The location of the face-to-face meeting will be announced in a subsequent **Federal Register** notice. The meetings will convene on the dates and at the times specified below.

(a) *Science and Technology Review Panel (S&TRP)*—January 23, 2003 by teleconference from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern Time. The EPA charge to the SAB presumes Panel knowledge of a substantial amount of information about EPA's science planning documents, strategic objectives, priorities, research planning processes, research types, and peer review approaches. The purpose of this public teleconference meeting is to: (i) Discuss the charge and background materials provided to the Panel; (ii) to receive presentations from EPA representatives on the background materials; (iii) to receive public comments if any are offered; (iv) to ask questions on the charge and the background materials; (v) to make and discuss Panel assignments for the review; (vi) to clarify specific points of interest raised by the Panelists in preparation for the face-to-face meeting to be held on February 24–25, 2003; and (vii) to identify additional information or other Panel needs. See above for information on the location of this meeting. Persons wishing to participate in the call should call Ms. Zisa Lubarov-Walton for information on call in procedures. See below for availability of review materials and contact information.

(b) *Science and Technology Review Panel (S&TRP)*—January 24, 2003, by teleconference from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern Time. The purpose of this public teleconference meeting is to conclude Panel preparations for its review of the EPA S&T Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2004. These background briefings are to be initiated during a telephone conference meeting on January 23, 2003 (see item 2 a) above). See above for information on the location of this meeting. Persons wishing to participate in the call should call Ms. Zisa Lubarov-Walton for information on call in procedures. See

below for availability of review materials and contact information.

(c) *Science and Technology Review Panel (S&TRP)*—February 24–25, 2003 Face-to-Face Meeting. The Science and Technology Review Panel of the EPA Science Advisory Board will meet from February 24 to February 25, 2003. The meeting will be held at a location to be announced in a subsequent **Federal Register** notice. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. on February 24, 2003 and end no later than 4 p.m. on February 25, 2003. All times noted are Eastern Time. The meeting is open to the public; however, seating is limited and available on a first come basis. The purpose of this public meeting is to conduct public deliberations on the EPA FY 2004 S&T component of the President's Budget request.

Documentation on the budget which is to be delivered to the Panel during the first week of February, 2003. Persons wishing to participate in the call should call Ms. Zisa Lubarov-Walton for information on call in procedures. See below for availability of review materials and contact information.

(d) *Science and Technology Review Panel (S&TRP)*—March 21, 2003, by teleconference from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern Time. The purpose of this public teleconference meeting is to conclude panel deliberations and to reach closure on its report on the S&T budget. This meeting will be held only if needed to complete the Panel's work. See above for information on the location of this meeting. Persons wishing to participate in the call should call Ms. Zisa Lubarov-Walton for information on call in procedures. See below for availability of review materials and contact information.

3. For Further Information

Any member of the public wishing further information concerning these meetings, or who wishes to submit brief oral comments, must contact Mr. Thomas O. Miller, Designated Federal Officer, Science and Technology Review Panel, USEPA Science Advisory Board (1400A), Suite 6450DD, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone/voice mail at (202) 564-4558; fax at (202) 501-0582; or via e-mail at miller.tom@epa.gov. Requests for oral comments must be *in writing* (e-mail, fax or mail) and received by Mr. Miller no later than noon Eastern Time on the dates that follow: (a) January 17, 2003 for the first two telephone conferences and (b) February 19, 2003 for the face-to-face meeting, and (c) March 14, 2003 for the contingency telephone

conference meeting. See below for time limitations on public comments.

Members of the public desiring additional information about the meeting locations must contact Ms. Zisa Lubarov-Walton, EPA Science Advisory Board (1400A), Suite 6450FF, U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone/voice mail at (202) 564-4533; fax at (202) 501-0582; or via e-mail at lubarov-walton.zisa@epa.gov.

A copy of the draft agenda, and other information for the review for each meeting, will be posted on the SAB Web site (www.epa.gov/SAB/whatsnew.htm) approximately 10 days before that meeting.

(a) Availability of Review Materials—Materials that are the subject of this review are available from Ms. Laura Miner-Nordstrom, Office of the Chief Financial Officer or from Mr. Kevin Teichman, Office of Research and Development. Ms. Laura Miner-Nordstrom can be reached on (202) 564-1601 or by e-mail at Miner-Nordstrom.Laura@epa.gov and Mr. Teichman can be reached on (202) 564-6705 or via e-mail on teichman.kevin@epa.gov.

(b) Meeting Access—Individuals requiring special accommodation at this meeting, including wheelchair access to the conference room, should contact Mr. Miller at least five business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

(c) General Information—Additional information concerning the Science Advisory Board, its structure, function, and composition, may be found on the SAB Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/sab>) and in the Science Advisory Board FY2001 Annual Staff Report which is available from the SAB Publications Staff at (202) 564-4533 or via fax at (202) 501-0256.

4. Providing Oral or Written Comments at SAB Meetings

It is the policy of the EPA Science Advisory Board to accept written public comments of any length, and to accommodate oral public comments whenever possible. The EPA Science Advisory Board expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted oral or written statements. *Oral Comments:* In general, each individual or group requesting an oral presentation at a face-to-face meeting will be limited to a total time of ten minutes (unless otherwise indicated). For teleconference meetings, opportunities for oral comment will usually be limited to no more than three minutes per speaker and no more than

fifteen minutes total. Deadlines for getting on the public speaker list for a meeting are given above. Speakers should bring at least 35 copies of their comments and presentation slides for distribution to the reviewers and public at the meeting. *Written Comments:* Although the SAB accepts written comments until the date of the meeting (unless otherwise stated), written comments should be received in the SAB Staff Office at least one week prior to the meeting date so that the comments may be made available to the review panel for their consideration. Comments should be supplied to the appropriate DFO at the address/contact information noted above in the following formats: one hard copy with original signature, and one electronic copy via e-mail (acceptable file format: Adobe Acrobat, WordPerfect, Word, or Rich Text files (in IBM-PC/Windows 95/98 format). Those providing written comments and who attend the meeting are also asked to bring 35 copies of their comments for public distribution.

Dated: December 24, 2002.

Robert Flaak,

Acting Director, EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-2002-0343; FRL-7284-7]

Prosulfuron; Notice of Filing Pesticide Petitions to Establish Tolerances for a Certain Pesticide Chemical in or on Food

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the initial filing of pesticide petitions proposing the establishment of regulations for residues of prosulfuron in or on various food commodities.

DATES: Comments, identified by docket ID number OPP-2002-0343, must be received on or before January 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted electronically, by mail, or through hand delivery/courier. Follow the detailed instructions as provided in Unit I. of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Tompkins, Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001; telephone number:

(703) 305-5697; e-mail address: tompkins.jim@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

You may be affected by this action if you are an agricultural producer, food manufacturer, or pesticide manufacturer. Potentially affected categories and entities may include, but are not limited to:

- Crop production (NAICS code 111)
- Animal production (NAICS code 112)
- Food manufacturing (NAICS code 311)
- Pesticide manufacturing (NAICS code 32532)

This listing is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide for readers regarding entities likely to be affected by this action. Other types of entities not listed in this unit could also be affected. The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes have been provided to assist you and others in determining whether this action might apply to certain entities. If you have questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

B. How Can I Get Copies of this Document and Other Related Information?

1. *Docket.* EPA has established an official public docket for this action under docket identification (ID) number OPP-2002-0343. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to this action. Although a part of the official docket, the public docket does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA. This docket facility is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The docket telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

2. *Electronic access.* You may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the EPA Internet under the “**Federal Register**” listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA’s