

Dated: June 23, 2004.

Susan B. Hazen,

*Assistant Administrator, Office of Prevention,
Pesticides and Toxic Substances.*

[FR Doc. 04-14831 Filed 6-29-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-S

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPT-2004-0101; FRL-7367-6]

Certain New Chemicals; Receipt and Status Information

AGENCY: Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Section 5 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) requires any person who intends to manufacture (defined by statute to include import) a new chemical (i.e., a chemical not on the TSCA Inventory) to notify EPA and comply with the statutory provisions pertaining to the manufacture of new chemicals. Under sections 5(d)(2) and 5(d)(3) of TSCA, EPA is required to publish a notice of receipt of a premanufacture notice (PMN) or an application for a test marketing exemption (TME), and to publish periodic status reports on the chemicals under review and the receipt of notices of commencement to manufacture those chemicals. This status report, which covers the period from May 24, 2004 to June 11, 2004, consists of the PMNs, pending or expired, and the notices of commencement to manufacture a new chemical that the Agency has received under TSCA section 5 during this time period.

DATES: Comments identified by the docket ID number OPPT-2004-0101 and the specific PMN number or TME number, must be received on or before July 30, 2004.

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: Colby Lintner, Regulatory Coordinator, Environmental Assistance Division, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (7408M), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001; telephone number: (202) 554-1404; e-mail address: *TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general. As such, the Agency has not attempted to describe the specific entities that this action may apply to. Although others may be affected, this action applies directly to the submitter of the premanufacture notices addressed in the action. If you have any 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 OPPT-2004-0101. 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 EPA Docket Center, Rm. B102-Reading Room, EPA West, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The EPA Docket Center Reading Room telephone number is (202) 566-1744 and the telephone number for the OPPT Docket, which is located in EPA Docket Center, is (202) 566-0280.

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 electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified in Unit I.B.1. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket ID number.

Certain types of information will not be placed in the EPA Dockets.

Information claimed as CBI and other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute, which is not included in the official public docket, will not be available for public viewing in EPA's electronic public docket. EPA's policy is that copyrighted material will not be placed in EPA's electronic public docket but will be available only in printed, paper form in the official public docket. To the extent feasible, publicly available docket materials will be made available in EPA's electronic public docket. When a document is selected from the index list in EPA Dockets, the system will identify whether the document is available for viewing in EPA's electronic public docket. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified in Unit I.B.1. EPA intends to work towards providing electronic access to all of the publicly available docket materials through EPA's electronic public docket.

For public commenters, it is important to note that EPA's policy is that public comments, whether submitted electronically or in paper, will be made available for public viewing in EPA's electronic public docket as EPA receives them and without change, unless the comment contains copyrighted material, CBI, or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. When EPA identifies a comment containing copyrighted material, EPA will provide a reference to that material in the version of the comment that is placed in EPA's electronic public docket. The entire printed comment, including the copyrighted material, will be available in the public docket.

Public comments submitted on computer disks that are mailed or delivered to the docket will be transferred to EPA's electronic public docket. Public comments that are mailed or delivered to the docket will be scanned and placed in EPA's electronic public docket. Where practical, physical objects will be photographed, and the photograph will be placed in EPA's electronic public docket along with a brief description written by the docket staff.

C. How and To Whom Do I Submit Comments?

You may submit comments electronically, by mail, or through hand delivery/courier. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate docket ID number and specific PMN number or TME number in the subject line on the first page of your comment.

Please ensure that your comments are submitted within the specified comment period. Comments received after the close of the comment period will be marked "late." EPA is not required to consider these late comments. If you wish to submit CBI or information that is otherwise protected by statute, please follow the instructions in Unit I.D. Do not use EPA Dockets or e-mail to submit CBI or information protected by statute.

1. *Electronically.* If you submit an electronic comment as prescribed in this unit, EPA recommends that you include your name, mailing address, and an e-mail address or other contact information in the body of your comment. Also include this contact information on the outside of any disk or CD ROM you submit, and in any cover letter accompanying the disk or CD ROM. This ensures that you can be identified as the submitter of the comment and allows EPA to contact you in case EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties or needs further information on the substance of your comment. EPA's policy is that EPA will not edit your comment, and any identifying or contact information provided in the body of a comment will be included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment.

i. *EPA Dockets.* Your use of EPA's electronic public docket to submit comments to EPA electronically is EPA's preferred method for receiving comments. Go directly to EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/>, and follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once in the system, select "search," and then key in docket ID number OPPT-2004-0101. The system is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity, e-mail address, or other contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment.

ii. *E-mail.* Comments may be sent by e-mail to oppt.ncic@epa.gov, Attention: Docket ID Number OPPT-2004-0101 and PMN Number or TME Number. In contrast to EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system is not an "anonymous access" system. If you send an e-mail comment directly to the docket without going through EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system automatically captures your e-mail address. E-mail addresses that are automatically captured by EPA's e-mail system are included as part of the comment that is placed in the official

public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket.

iii. *Disk or CD ROM.* You may submit comments on a disk or CD ROM that you mail to the mailing address identified in Unit I.C.2. These electronic submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect or ASCII file format. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

2. *By mail.* Send your comments to: Document Control Office (7407M), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460-0001.

3. *By hand delivery or courier.* Deliver your comments to: OPPT Document Control Office (DCO) in EPA East Bldg., Rm. 6428, 1201 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. Attention: Docket ID Number OPPT-2004-0101 and PMN Number or TME Number. The DCO is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the DCO is (202) 564-8930.

D. How Should I Submit CBI to the Agency?

Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI electronically through EPA's electronic public docket or by e-mail. You may claim information that you submit to EPA as CBI by marking any part or all of that information as CBI (if you submit CBI on disk or CD ROM, mark the outside of the disk or CD ROM as CBI and then identify electronically within the disk or CD ROM the specific information that is CBI). Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2.

In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes any information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public docket and EPA's electronic public docket. If you submit the copy that does not contain CBI on disk or CD ROM, mark the outside of the disk or CD ROM clearly that it does not contain CBI. Information not marked as CBI will be included in the public docket and EPA's electronic public docket without prior notice. If you have any questions about CBI or the procedures for claiming CBI, please consult the technical person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

E. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Comments for EPA?

You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your comments:

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.
2. Describe any assumptions that you used.
3. Provide copies of any technical information and/or data you used that support your views.
4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at the estimate that you provide.
5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
6. Offer alternative ways to improve the notice or collection activity.
7. Make sure to submit your comments by the deadline in this document.
8. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, be sure to identify the docket ID number assigned to this action and the specific PMN number you are commenting on in the subject line on the first page of your response. You may also provide the name, date, and **Federal Register** citation.

II. Why is EPA Taking this Action?

Section 5 of TSCA requires any person who intends to manufacture (defined by statute to include import) a new chemical (i.e., a chemical not on the TSCA Inventory to notify EPA and comply with the statutory provisions pertaining to the manufacture of new chemicals. Under sections 5(d)(2) and 5(d)(3) of TSCA, EPA is required to publish a notice of receipt of a PMN or an application for a TME and to publish periodic status reports on the chemicals under review and the receipt of notices of commencement to manufacture those chemicals. This status report, which covers the period from May 24, 2004 to June 11, 2004, consists of the PMNs pending or expired, and the notices of commencement to manufacture a new chemical that the Agency has received under TSCA section 5 during this time period.

III. Receipt and Status Report for PMNs

This status report identifies the PMNs pending or expired, and the notices of commencement to manufacture a new chemical that the Agency has received under TSCA section 5 during this time period. If you are interested in information that is not included in the following tables, you may contact EPA as described in Unit II. to access additional non-CBI information that may be available.

In Table I of this unit, EPA provides the following information (to the extent

that such information is not claimed as assigned to the PMN; the date the PMN submitting manufacturer; the potential CBI) on the PMNs received by EPA was received by EPA; the projected end uses identified by the manufacturer in during this period: the EPA case number date for EPA's review of the PMN; the the PMN; and the chemical identity.

I. 44 PREMANUFACTURE NOTICES RECEIVED FROM: 05/24/04 TO 06/11/04

| Case No. | Received Date | Projected Notice End Date | Manufacturer/Importer | Use | Chemical |
|-----------|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| P-04-0597 | 05/24/04 | 08/21/04 | CBI | (G) Intermediate for detergents | (G) Alkylbenzenes sulfonic acid |
| P-04-0598 | 05/24/04 | 08/21/04 | CBI | (G) Intermediate for detergent | (G) Alkylated benzene bottoms sulfonated |
| P-04-0599 | 05/24/04 | 08/21/04 | CBI | (G) Metalworking detergents | (G) Alkylbenzenes sulfonic acids, metal salts |
| P-04-0600 | 05/24/04 | 08/21/04 | CBI | (G) Metalworking detergent | (G) Alkylbenzenes sulfonic acids, metal salts |
| P-04-0601 | 05/24/04 | 08/21/04 | CBI | (G) Metalworking detergent | (G) Alkylbenzenes sulfonic acids, metal salts |
| P-04-0602 | 05/24/04 | 08/21/04 | CBI | (G) Lubrication detergent | (G) Alkylbenzenes sulfonic acids, metal salts |
| P-04-0603 | 05/24/04 | 08/21/04 | CBI | (G) Lubrication detergent | (G) Alkylbenzenes sulfonic acids, metal salts |
| P-04-0604 | 05/24/04 | 08/21/04 | CBI | (G) Lubrication detergent | (G) Alkylbenzenes sulfonic acids, metal salts |
| P-04-0605 | 05/24/04 | 08/21/04 | CBI | (G) Metalworking additive | (G) Alkylbenzene sulfonic acids, metal salts |
| P-04-0606 | 05/24/04 | 08/21/04 | CBI | (G) Metalworking additive | (G) Alkylbenzene sulfonic acids, metal salts |
| P-04-0607 | 05/24/04 | 08/21/04 | CBI | (G) Automotive lubricant | (G) Alkylbenzene sulfonic acids, metal salts |
| P-04-0608 | 05/24/04 | 08/21/04 | CBI | (G) Intermediate for lubrication detergents | (G) Alkylated benzene |
| P-04-0609 | 05/24/04 | 08/21/04 | Cognis Corporation | (S) Expected to be used initially for the manufacture of inks, possibly as a solvent; intermediate for chemical derivatives for metal working, adhesives, textiles. no specifics. | (S) Alcohols, C ₁₄₋₁₈ and C ₁₈ -unsaturated, branched and linear |
| P-04-0610 | 05/24/04 | 08/21/04 | CBI | (G) Ultra violet (uv) pressure sensitive adhesive | (G) Methacrylated terpene phenolic oligomer |
| P-04-0611 | 05/25/04 | 08/22/04 | CBI | (G) Additive for industrial and consumer products dispersive use | (S) (1r,4r)-4-methoxy-2,2,7,7-tetramethyltricyclo[6.2.1.0 ^{1,6}]undec-5-ene |
| P-04-0618 | 05/26/04 | 08/23/04 | CBI | (S) Concrete additive | (G) Purandione telomer |
| P-04-0619 | 05/26/04 | 08/23/04 | CBI | (G) Component of a mixture for highly dispersive applications. | (G) Essential oil extract |
| P-04-0620 | 05/27/04 | 08/24/04 | Henkel Adhesives | (S) Low pressure molding adhesive | (G) Polyamide Resin |
| P-04-0621 | 05/27/04 | 08/24/04 | Mitsui Chemicals America, Inc. | (G) Coating resin | (S) 2-propenoic acid, 2-methyl-, polymer with ethyl 2-propenoate, 2-hydroxyethyl 2-methyl-2-propenoate and methyl 2-methyl-2-propenoate, 2,2'-azobis[2-methylpropanenitrile]-initiated |
| P-04-0622 | 05/27/04 | 08/24/04 | CBI | (G) Ingredients for use in consumer products: highly dispersive | (G) Alkyl 2-alkanoate |
| P-04-0623 | 05/27/04 | 08/24/04 | Ethox Chemicals, LLC | (G) Cleaning fluid | (S) Hexanoic acid, 2-ethyl-, C ₈₋₁₂ -alkyl esters |
| P-04-0624 | 05/24/04 | 08/21/04 | CBI | (G) Product is a component in a lubricant blend with final use in the plastics industry | (G) Mixed alkyl phosphate esters alkoxyated |
| P-04-0625 | 05/28/04 | 08/25/04 | CBI | (G) Crude oil additive for downhole application | (G) Dibutylhexadecylhydroxyethylammoniumbromide |
| P-04-0626 | 06/01/04 | 08/29/04 | CBI | (G) Processing aid | (G) Substituted phenol, polymer with polyalkylene polyether polyol and epichlorohydrin |
| P-04-0627 | 06/02/04 | 08/30/04 | CBI | (G) Spray applied filled backing resin | (G) Unsaturated polyester benzoate |
| P-04-0628 | 06/02/04 | 08/30/04 | CBI | (G) Component of manufactured consumer article-contained use. | (G) Spiro[isobenzofuran-1(3h),9'-[9h]heteropolycycle]-3-one, 3'-[(2-methylphenyl)amino]-6'-[(2-methylphenyl)octylamino]- |
| P-04-0629 | 06/02/04 | 08/30/04 | CBI | (S) Organic synthesis intermediate | (G) Spiro[isobenzofuran-1(3h),9'-[9h]heteropolycycle]-3-one, 3',6'-bis[(2-methylphenyl)amino]- |

I. 44 PREMANUFACTURE NOTICES RECEIVED FROM: 05/24/04 TO 06/11/04—Continued

| Case No. | Received Date | Projected Notice End Date | Manufacturer/Importer | Use | Chemical |
|-----------|---------------|---------------------------|---|---|--|
| P-04-0630 | 06/02/04 | 08/30/04 | CBI | (S) Acid dye for textile | (G) Substituted naphthalene sulfonic acid, alkali salt |
| P-04-0631 | 06/02/04 | 08/30/04 | CBI | (G) Hyperdispersant | (G) Fatty acid polyester amide |
| P-04-0632 | 06/02/04 | 08/30/04 | CIBA Specialty Chemicals Corporation, Textile Effects | (S) Exhaust application to cotton and nylon fabrics | (G) Bis substituted benzenesulfonic acid amino substituted triazin amino substituted phenyl azo compound |
| P-04-0633 | 06/03/04 | 08/31/04 | Na Industries, Inc. | (G) Concrete additive | (G) Poly (oxyethylene) alkenyl ether |
| P-04-0634 | 06/04/04 | 09/01/04 | U.S. Polymers Inc. | (S) Binder for thermo-plastic coating; binder for ink/adhesive | (G) Reaction product of: isophorone diisocyanate, aliphatic diamine, .beta.hydro-.omega.-hydroxypoly (oxy-1,4-butanediyl) and aliphatic hydroxy functional polyols. |
| P-04-0635 | 06/02/04 | 08/30/04 | CBI | (G) Solvent | (S) Ethane, 1,1,2,2-tetrafluoro-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)- |
| P-04-0636 | 06/07/04 | 09/04/04 | CBI | (S) Ink jet dye for inks | (G) Cuprate, [[[[[[[[(sulfonaphthalenyl)]azo]- (substitutedphenyl)]azo]- (substitutedsulfonaphthalenyl)]azo]- substitutedphenyl-substituted heteromonocycle], sodium salts |
| P-04-0637 | 06/08/04 | 09/05/04 | Cognis Corporation | (G) Synthetic fiber lubricant | (S) 9,12-octadecadienoic acid (9z,12z)-, reaction products with tetraethylenepentamine, acetates |
| P-04-0638 | 06/07/04 | 09/04/04 | CBI | (G) Use: spray-applied paint, degree of containment: open, non-dispersive | (G) Alkanedioic acid, polymer with 2-ethyl-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1,3-propanediol, 1,3-isobenzofurandione, 2-methyl-1,3-propanediol, and oxiranylmethyl neodecanoate |
| P-04-0639 | 06/07/04 | 09/04/04 | CBI | (G) Industrial detergent and dispersant use. | (G) Modified aspartic acid polymer |
| P-04-0640 | 06/07/04 | 09/04/04 | CBI | (G) A crosslinking agent for solvent based inks. A monomer for polymerizations. A water scavenger for producing anhydrous polymers. | (G) Multifunctional polycarbodiimide |
| P-04-0641 | 06/10/04 | 09/07/04 | Rahn USA Corp. | (S) UV/electronic beam inks; uv/electronic beam coatings; uv/electron beam fillers; uv/electron beam adhesives | (G) Polyetherpolyol polymer with aromatic dialkylamine |
| P-04-0642 | 06/10/04 | 09/07/04 | CBI | (G) Plastics additives | (G) Adipic acid ester oligomer |
| P-04-0643 | 06/09/04 | 09/06/04 | Hi-Tech Color, Inc. | (S) 1. Plastic molding (tv, radio casset, etc.) 2. Pvc sheet (wall paper, bookjacket etc.) | (G) 9-octadecenoic acid (z)-, butyl ester, polymer with propanediol, 5-isocyanato-1-(isocyanatomethyl)-1,3,3-trimethylcyclohexane, 2-oxepanone, and 1,3,5-tris(6-isocyanatohexyl)-1,3,5-triazine-2,4,6(1h,3h,5h)-trione. |
| P-04-0644 | 06/09/04 | 09/06/04 | BASF Corporation | (G) Radiation curing agent | (G) Polyurethane acrylic ester |
| P-04-0650 | 06/09/04 | 09/06/04 | Genencor International Inc. | (S) A preparation for the detoxification of organophosphate agents | (S) Reaction catalyzed: aryl dialkyl phosphate + h2o odialkyl phosphate + an aryl alcohol acts on organophosphorus compounds (such as paraoxon) including esters of phosphonic and phosphinic acid. |

In Table II of this unit, EPA provides the following information (to the extent that such information is not claimed as

CBI) on the Notices of Commencement to manufacture received:

II. 15 NOTICES OF COMMENCEMENT FROM: 05/24/04 TO 06/11/04

| Case No. | Received Date | Commencement Notice End Date | Chemical |
|-----------|---------------|------------------------------|---|
| P-00-1118 | 06/08/04 | 06/03/04 | (G) Alkenyl hydroxy acid |
| P-02-0846 | 06/02/04 | 04/29/04 | (G) Sulfonated naphthalene condensate, calcium salt |
| P-02-0847 | 06/02/04 | 04/29/04 | (G) Sulfonated naphthalene condensate, sodium salt |
| P-03-0417 | 06/03/04 | 05/26/04 | (G) Polyester isocyanate polymer |

II. 15 NOTICES OF COMMENCEMENT FROM: 05/24/04 TO 06/11/04—Continued

| Case No. | Received Date | Commencement Notice End Date | Chemical |
|-----------|---------------|------------------------------|---|
| P-03-0838 | 06/03/04 | 05/04/04 | (G) Benzo thiaziazine derivative |
| P-03-0841 | 06/03/04 | 05/04/04 | (G) Benzothiaziazine derivative |
| P-04-0090 | 06/08/04 | 05/18/04 | (G) Triazine derivative |
| P-04-0141 | 06/01/04 | 05/16/04 | (G) Modified amidoamine |
| P-04-0188 | 06/03/04 | 05/10/04 | (G) Heterocyclic substituted sulfonyloxybenzenecarboxamide |
| P-04-0265 | 05/28/04 | 05/13/04 | (G) Substituted alkyl diol polymer with substituted alkyloxime and substituted cycloalkane and unsaturated alcohols |
| P-04-0275 | 06/09/04 | 05/21/04 | (S) Oxetane, 3-(bromomethyl)-3-methyl- |
| P-04-0288 | 06/09/04 | 05/26/04 | (G) Substituted aromatic azo isoindole |
| P-04-0295 | 06/08/04 | 05/27/04 | (S) 2-propenoic acid, 2-methyl-, (dimethoxymethylsilyl)methyl ester |
| P-04-0335 | 06/09/04 | 06/02/04 | (G) Quaternary ammonium compound |
| P-04-0342 | 06/03/04 | 05/25/04 | (G) Polyurethane prepolymer |

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Chemicals, Premanufacturer notices.

Dated: June 24, 2004.

Sandra R. Wilkins,

Director, Information Management Division, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics.

[FR Doc. 04-14834 Filed 6-29-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-S

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7780-2]

Proposed Reissuance of the NPDES General Permit for the Western Portion of the Outer Continental Shelf of the Gulf of Mexico (GMG290000)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of Proposed NPDES General Permit Reissuance.

SUMMARY: The Regional Administrator of Region 6 today proposes to reissue the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit for the Western Portion of the Outer Continental Shelf of the Gulf of Mexico (No. GMG290000) for discharges from existing and new dischargers and New Sources in the Offshore Subcategory of the Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category as authorized by section 402 of the Clean Water Act. The permit, previously reissued on April 19, 1999, published in the **Federal Register** at 64 FR 19156, authorizes discharges from exploration, development, and production facilities located in and discharging to Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico seaward of the outer boundary of the territorial seas off Louisiana and Texas. Discharges of produced water to Federal waters from facilities located in the territorial seas are also authorized when all conditions of the permit are met. The following

changes to the expiring permit are proposed to be made as a part of the permit reissuance: The time frame is specified for collection of a produced water sample after a sheen is observed. The discharge prohibitions at National Marine Sanctuaries are clarified in an attempt to better reflect National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration regulations. The variability factor for use in determining compliance with the permit's limits for sediment toxicity and biodegradation is removed. The requirement to submit fourteen day advanced notification of intent to be covered by the permit is removed. The final discharge monitoring report will be required to be submitted along with the a notice of termination. New test methods are allowed for monitoring cadmium and mercury in stock barite. Several minor miscellaneous discharges are added to better represent deep water technologies. Other changes to the permit's miscellaneous discharge requirements are proposed to clarify that toxicity testing is not required for non-toxic dyes. Other minor changes in wording are also proposed to resolve confusion of EPA's intent regarding the permit's requirements. EPA is proposing that the permit be reissued for three years. During the three year permit term, EPA and Minerals Management Service (MMS) propose to conduct a study to collect additional information to support the evaluation of potential produced water discharge impacts in the hypoxic zone in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Our intent is to ensure that we have the information necessary to determine whether or not anticipated future increases in produced water discharges may result in unreasonable degradation of the marine environment. EPA and Minerals Management Service (MMS) will work in partnership to determine the appropriate next steps based on this study.

DATES: Comments must be received by July 30, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to: Regional Administrator, Region 6, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Comments may also be submitted via EMAIL to the following address: *smith.diane@epa.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Diane Smith, Region 6, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (6WQ-CA), 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733. Telephone: (214) 665-2145.

A copy of the proposed permit and the fact sheet more fully explaining the proposal may be obtained from Ms. Smith. The Agency's current administrative record on the proposal is available for examination at the Region's Dallas offices during normal working hours after providing Ms. Smith 24 hours advance notice. Additionally, a copy of the proposed permit and fact sheet, and this **Federal Register** Notice may be obtained on the Internet at: <http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6wq/6wq.htm>.

Administrative Compliance Order (ACO) for NPDES OCS Permit Transition for Dischargers in the Western Portion of the Gulf of Mexico

Persons who own or operate offshore platforms in Federal waters of the Western Portion of the Gulf of Mexico (defined as seaward of the outer boundary of the territorial seas off Louisiana and Texas) and have unauthorized discharges of pollutants to waters of the U.S. may not obtain new permit coverage under the 1998 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) general permit (NPDES No. GMG290000) since it expired on November 3, 2003. However, these persons may request coverage