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Draft EPA Report on U.S. Climate Policies Open for Review Before Submission to U.N. 1

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Draft EPA Report on U.S. Climate Policies Open for Review Before Submission to U.N.

The Bush administration is preparing to provide the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change detailed information on national greenhouse gas emission inventories and their climate change impacts, an Environmental Protection Agency official said Nov. 14.

A draft report communicating the most recent U.S. action on climate change, including new policies, projects, measures, and inventories, is expected to be open to public scrutiny Nov. 15, before the Bush administration must submit it under the U.N. convention.

All but one chapter, "Projections and Effects of Policies and Measures," is expected to be published in the Federal Register Nov. 15 and available for comment for 30 days before the administration submits it to the United Nations as the Climate Action Report required for all signatory nations to the convention.

#### Many Differences Since Last Report

Reid Harvey, of EPA's Office of Atmospheric Programs, told BNA Nov. 14 that much of the information contained in the third Climate Action Report differs from the information included in the last report submitted in 1997.

Many of the differences stem from new U.N. guidelines for reporting, which call for more specific projections and details. However, Harvey said, since the U.S. agencies have required more improved, comprehensive inventories from industry sectors and completed a national climate change assessment in 2000, the latest Climate Action Report also will offer a better assessment of U.S. vulnerability to climate change and how the United States could adapt.

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The report will provide updates on measures and policies implemented under the Clinton administration as well as policies initiated under the Bush administration. For example, according to the EPA announcement, the report will provide information gathered since President Bush's June announcement of his intention to implement policies enhancing research and technology.

#### Observation Techniques

In addition, Harvey said an item not in the previous report that will appear in the upcoming report is information on what the United States is doing to observe global climate systems, such as the use of satellites, and sea- and land-based monitoring.

Draft chapters of the third Climate Action Report are expected to be available on EPA's national communication Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming/publications/natcom.html> after a notice for public comment is published Nov. 15 in the Federal Register, according to Harvey.

By Pamela Najor

#### Japan Prepares to Launch Ratification, Implementation Proceedings for Kyoto Pact

TOKYO--Just days after climate change talks in Morocco ended, the Japanese government Nov. 12 agreed to begin "full-scale preparations" for implementing the domestic measures needed to meet the greenhouse gas reduction targets outlined in the Kyoto Protocol, including sectorial quotas and higher taxes for heavy polluters.

At its Nov. 12 meeting, the Global Warming Prevention Headquarters chaired by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi agreed to review the nation's current Outline for Global Warming Prevention.

It also agreed to "implement full-scale preparations" for submitting the legislation needed to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, the Prime Minister's Office announced.

The global warming group, created shortly before climate change talks started in Morocco at the end of October, is one of many ad hoc government committees reviewing Japan's climate change strategy, officials said.

The headquarters group also called on the Japanese people to adopt lifestyles that are more friendly to the environment, and it urged industry to develop technologies that are more energy-efficient and that release fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

Government sources said the Koizumi government plans to introduce the various pieces of Kyoto-linked legislation one by one starting early in