

needed to achieve increasing water quality and public health goals.

Adoption of the Management Guidelines is voluntary, however, EPA encourages states and communities to consider them as a basis for improving their onsite and clustered wastewater management program.

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

Background. Onsite and clustered wastewater treatment systems currently serve about 25 percent of U.S. homes and approximately 33 percent of new development. States report that these wastewater treatment 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.

In April, 1997, EPA prepared its *Response to Congress on the Use of Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems*. The report concluded that decentralized wastewater treatment technologies offer a cost-effective, long term wastewater solution for many communities. However, the report emphasized that decentralized 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.

In response to the need for improved management, EPA prepared a concept paper in the spring of 1999, which received considerable input from various stakeholders, including other federal agencies, state health agencies, environmental groups, trade associations and public interest groups. The result was a notice of availability of the draft *Guidelines for Management of Onsite/Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems* which was published in the **Federal Register** on October 6, 2000 (65 FR 59840–59841) for public comment and included an annotated outline of an accompanying manual/handbook. During follow up outreach efforts conducted by EPA, stakeholders raised several key issues concerning the voluntary nature of the Guidelines, their flexibility, and possible implementation issues. EPA has addressed those issues and has received support from representatives of public and private organizations who

believe national guidelines are important.

You can get copies of the Management Guidelines by downloading the document at <http://www.epa.gov/owm/mtb/decent/>. Hard copies may be obtained from USEPA Publications Clearing House, PO Box 42419, Cincinnati, OH 45242. You may access this **Federal Register** notice electronically through the EPA Internet under the **Federal Register** listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

Dated: March 18, 2003.

G. Tracy Mehan, III,

Assistant Administrator, Office of Water.

[FR Doc. 03–7506 Filed 3–27–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–7474–8]

Proposed Administrative Cost Recovery Agreement under CERCLA Section 122(h) for Recovery of Past Costs at the Sealand Restoration Superfund Site, Lisbon, St. Lawrence County, NY

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 122(i) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (“CERCLA”), 42 U.S.C. 9622(i), notice is hereby given of a proposed administrative settlement, entered into pursuant to section 122(h) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9622(h), for recovery of past response costs concerning the Sealand Restoration Superfund Site (“Site”) located in Lisbon, St. Lawrence County, New York. The settlement is between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) and the General Motors Corporation (“GMC”). The settlement requires GMC to pay \$430,000.00 to EPA, in reimbursement of past response costs incurred with respect to the Site. The settlement includes a covenant not to sue the settling party pursuant to section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9607(a), for all costs that EPA or the U.S. Department of Justice on behalf of EPA paid at or in connection with the Site through September 30, 2002. For thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this notice, EPA will receive written comments relating to the settlement. EPA will consider all comments received and may modify or

withdraw its consent to the settlement if comments received disclose facts or considerations that indicate that the proposed settlement is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate. EPA’s response to any comments received will be available for public inspection at the EPA, Region 2, 290 Broadway, New York, New York 10007–1866.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before April 28, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The proposed settlement is available for public inspection at the United States Environmental Protection Agency, 290 Broadway, New York, New York 10007–1866. A copy of the proposed settlement may be obtained from James Doyle, Assistant Regional Counsel, Office of Regional Counsel, New York/Caribbean Superfund Branch, EPA, Region 2, 290 Broadway, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10007–1866. Comments should reference the Sealand Restoration Superfund Site located in Lisbon, St. Lawrence County, New York. Requests for a copy of the agreement should reference Docket No. CERCLA–02–2003–2007. Any comments or requests should be addressed to James Doyle at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Doyle, Assistant Regional Counsel, Office of Regional Counsel, New York/Caribbean Superfund Branch, EPA, Region 2, 290 Broadway, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10007–1866. Telephone: (212) 637–3165.

Dated: March 14, 2003.

William J. Muszynski,

Deputy Regional Administrator, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region II.

[FR Doc. 03–7508 Filed 3–27–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL: 7474–7]

Proposed Covenant Not To Sue Under CERCLA Section 122(h) Contained in Administrative Order on Consent, Index No. CERCLA–02–2002–2025, Shenandoah Road Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site, East Fishkill, Dutchess County, NY

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 122(i) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (“CERCLA”), 42