

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7520-4]

Meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC)**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of Public Law 92-423, "The Federal Advisory Committee Act," notice is hereby given of the forthcoming conference call meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (Council), established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*). The Council will discuss follow-up actions relating to a report presented at the May 2003 meeting by NDWAC's work group on Affordability. The Council will determine whether it will make specific recommendations to EPA relating to the Affordability report. This is a follow-up conference call to the conference call held on June 20, 2003.

DATES: The Council meeting will be held on July 10, 2003, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

ADDRESSES: Council members teleconference into Room 2123 of the EPA East Building, which is physically located at 1201 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Members of the public that would like to attend the meeting, present an oral statement, submit a written statement in advance, or make arrangements to teleconference call into the meeting should contact Brenda Johnson, Designated Federal Officer, National Drinking Water Advisory Council, by July 3, 2003. Ms. Johnson can be reached at (202) 564-3791, by e-mail at johnson.brendap@epa.gov, or by regular mail at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (M/C 4601M), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council encourages the public's input and will allocate 30 minutes for this purpose. A limited number of additional phone lines may be available for members of the public that are outside of the Washington, DC, metropolitan commuting area and are unable to attend in person. Any additional teleconferencing lines that are available will be reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis by the Designated Federal Officer. To ensure adequate time for public involvement, oral statements will

be limited to five minutes, and it is preferred that only one person present the statement on behalf of a group or organization. Any person who wishes to file a written statement can do so before or after a Council meeting. Written statements received prior to the meeting will be distributed to all members of the Council before any final discussion or vote is completed. Any statements received after the meeting will become part of the permanent meeting file and will be forwarded to the Council members for their information. Any person needing special accommodations at this meeting, including wheelchair access, should contact the Designated Federal Officer, at the number or e-mail listed under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section, at least five business days before the meeting so that the appropriate arrangements can be made.

Nanci Gelb,*Acting Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.*

[FR Doc. 03-16588 Filed 6-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[OEI-2003-0032; FRL-7520-2]

A Summary of General Assessment Factors for Evaluating the Quality of Scientific and Technical Information**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the availability of the final *A Summary of General Assessment Factors for Evaluating the Quality of Scientific and Technical Information* (EPA 100/B-03/001; herein after referred to as the "Assessment Factors Document").

DATES: EPA is making the document available July 1, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The "Assessment Factors Document" is available at the EPA web site at the following web pages: http://www.epa.gov/oei/qualityguidelines/af_home.htm, <http://www.epa.gov/osp/spc/2polprog.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Greg Schweer, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (7405M), telephone number: (202) 564-8469; fax number: (202) 564-4765 or Halûk Özkaynak, Office of Research and Development (8601-D), telephone number (202) 564-1531, fax number (202) 564-0061, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; e-

mail address:

assessment.factors@epa.gov.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****What is the EPA "Assessment Factors Document"?**

The "Assessment Factors Document" was prepared under the auspices of the EPA Science Policy Council (SPC) to describe the assessment factors and considerations generally used by the Agency to evaluate the quality and relevance of scientific and technical information. These general assessment factors are founded in the Agency guidelines, practices and procedures that make up the EPA information and quality systems, including existing program-specific quality assurance policies. As such, the general assessment factors do not constitute new quality-related considerations, nor does this document describe a new process for evaluating information. The "Assessment Factors Document" is intended to raise the awareness of the information-generating public about EPA's ongoing interest in ensuring and enhancing the quality of information available for Agency use. Further, the "Assessment Factors Document" complements the *Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated by the Environmental Protection Agency* (EPA/260/R-02-008). The Information Quality Guidelines are also available via internet at: <http://www.epa.gov/oei/qualityguidelines>.

Consistent with the Agency's approach to the development of the EPA Information Quality Guidelines, this document is the product of an open, collaborative process between EPA and the public. During the development of this document, EPA requested public input in a variety of ways. EPA distributed a draft document for public comment in September 2002 and hosted a public meeting in Washington, DC. In January 2003, EPA commissioned the National Academy of Sciences to host a workshop to discuss key aspects of this document from a scientific and technical perspective. EPA revised this document based on the input received through these public outreach opportunities.

How Can I Get Copies of the "Assessment Factors Document"?

You may access the EPA "Assessment Factors Document" and other information related to this notice electronically at the following web pages: http://www.epa.gov/oei/qualityguidelines/af_home.htm and

<http://www.epa.gov/osp/spc/2polprog.htm>.

To obtain a written copy of the "Assessment Factors Document", you may contact either of the individuals listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Elaine Stanley,

Director, Office of Information Analysis and Access, Office of Environmental Information.

[FR Doc. 03-16328 Filed 6-30-03; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7520-7]

Final National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges From Construction Activities

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of final issuance.

SUMMARY: EPA Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 today are issuing EPA's final NPDES general permit for discharges from large and small construction activities. Hereinafter, the terms "permit" or "construction general permit" or "CGP" will replace "permits." Today's permit will replace the existing permit covering large construction sites in EPA Regions 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10 that expired on February 17, 2003 and the permit covering large construction sites in EPA Region 6 that expires July 6, 2003. Today's permit covers large construction sites in EPA Region 5. In addition, today's permit incorporates coverage of small construction activity in EPA Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. State Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) certification was not received from Massachusetts in time for that state to be included in this permit. As such, large construction activities in Massachusetts covered under the 1998 permit will continue to be covered under that permit. Today's permit is similar to the 1998 permits and will authorize the discharge of pollutants in storm water runoff associated with construction activities in accordance with the terms and conditions described therein.

DATES: The effective date of this permit is July 1, 2003. The permit will expire five years from the effective date.

ADDRESSES: The administrative record is available for inspection and copying at the Water Docket, located at the EPA Docket Center in the basement of the EPA West Building, Room B-102, at

1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on the final permit, the permit's Notice of Intent (NOI) or Notice of Termination (NOT) requirements, visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/cgp>, contact the appropriate EPA Regional Office listed in I.B., or contact Jack Faulk, Office of Wastewater Management, Office of Water, EPA Headquarters at tel.: (202) 564-0768 or email at faulk.jack@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. How Can I Get Copies of This Document and Other Related Information?

1. *Permit.* Copies of the permit, permit fact sheet, and the Response to Comments document may be downloaded from EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/cgp>.

2. *Docket.* EPA has established an official public docket for this action under Docket ID No. OW-2002-0055. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to this action. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the Water Docket in the EPA Docket Center, (EPA/DC) EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Water Docket is (202) 566-2426.

3. *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 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. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket identification number.

B. Who Are the EPA Regional Contacts for This Permit?

For EPA Region 1, contact Thelma Murphy at tel.: (617) 918-1615 or e-mail at murphy.thelma@epa.gov.

For EPA Region 2, contact Karen O'Brien at tel.: (212) 637-3717 or e-mail at obrien.karen@epa.gov or for Puerto Rico, Sergio Bosques at tel.: (787) 977-5838 or e-mail at bosques.sergio@epa.gov.

For EPA Region 3, contact William Toffel at tel.: (215) 814-5706 or toffel.william@epa.gov.

For EPA Region 5, contact Brian Bell at tel.: (312) 886-0981 or e-mail at bell.brianc@epa.gov.

For EPA Region 6, contact Brent Larsen at tel.: (214) 665-7523 or e-mail at larsen.brent@epa.gov.

For EPA Region 7, contact Mark Matthews at tel.: (913) 551-7635 or e-mail at matthews.mark@epa.gov.

For EPA Region 8, contact Greg Davis at tel.: (303) 312-6082 or e-mail at davis.gregory@epa.gov.

For EPA Region 9, contact Eugene Bromley at tel.: (415) 972-3510 or e-mail at bromley.eugene@epa.gov.

For EPA Region 10, contact Misha Vakoc at tel.: (206) 553-6650 or e-mail at vakoc.misha@epa.gov.

II. Background

A. Statutory and Regulatory History

Section 405 of the Water Quality Act of 1987 (WQA) added section 402(p) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), which directed EPA to develop a phased approach to regulate storm water discharges under the NPDES program. EPA published a final regulation on the first phase of this program on November 16, 1990, establishing permit application requirements for "storm water discharges associated with industrial activity." EPA defined the term "storm water discharge associated with industrial activity" in a comprehensive manner to cover a wide variety of facilities. Construction activities that disturb at least five acres of land and have point source discharges to waters of the U.S. were included in the definition of "industrial activity" pursuant to 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)(x). Phase II of the storm water program was published in the **Federal Register** on December 8, 1999. Phase II includes sites disturbing equal to or greater than one acre and less than five acres as well as sites less than one acre of total land area that are part of a larger common plan of development or sale if the larger common plan will ultimately disturb equal to or greater than one and less than five acres. Small