

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-9175-2; Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-ORD-2009-0934]

**The Effects of Mountaintop Mines and Valley Fills on Aquatic Ecosystems of the Central Appalachian Coalfields and a Field-Based Aquatic Life Benchmark for Conductivity in Central Appalachian Streams****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Extension of public comment period to August 13, 2010.**SUMMARY:** EPA is announcing a second extension of the public comment period for two related draft documents:

(1) "The Effects of Mountaintop Mines and Valley Fills on Aquatic Ecosystems of the Central Appalachian Coalfields" (EPA/600/R-09/138A) and (2) "A Field-based Aquatic Life Benchmark for Conductivity in Central Appalachian Streams" (EPA/600/R-10/023A). We are specifically extending the comment period to give the public additional time to evaluate the data used to derive a benchmark for conductivity. The original **Federal Register** notice announcing the public comment period was published on April 12, 2010 (75 FR 18499), and an extension of the public comment period was published on June 1, 2010 (75 FR 30393). By following the link below, reviewers may download the initial data and EPA's derivative data sets that were used to calculate the conductivity benchmark. These reports were developed by the National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) within EPA's Office of Research and Development as part of a set of actions taken by EPA to further clarify and strengthen environmental permitting requirements for Appalachian mountaintop removal and other surface coal mining projects, in coordination with federal and state regulatory agencies (<http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/guidance/mining.html>).

Both documents will be reviewed by an independent Mountaintop Mining Advisory Panel convened by EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB). The SAB's public meeting is scheduled for July 20-22, 2010, and was announced in the **Federal Register** on May 25, 2010 (75 FR 29339). The public comment period described above and the SAB meeting follow separate processes and provide separate opportunities for all interested parties to comment on the document. EPA intends to forward to the SAB those comments received as of July 13, 2010 for consideration by the SAB Panel. Those comments received

after July 13 will also be made available to the SAB review panel for their consideration as they complete their Panel report. When finalizing the draft documents, EPA will consider the comments from the SAB review as well as any significant public comments that it receives in accordance with this notice.

EPA is releasing these draft documents for the purpose of pre-dissemination peer review under applicable information quality guidelines. The documents have not been formally disseminated by EPA. They do not represent and should not be construed to represent a final Agency policy or determination; however, the documents reflect EPA's best interpretation of the available science. The draft documents are available via the Internet on NCEA's home page under the Recent Additions and Publications menus at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea>.

**DATES:** The public comment period began on April 12, 2010 and ends on August 13, 2010. Technical comments should be in writing and must be received by EPA by August 13, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** The draft reports, "The Effects of Mountaintop Mines and Valley Fills on Aquatic Ecosystems of the Central Appalachian Coalfields" and "A Field-based Aquatic Life Benchmark for Conductivity in Central Appalachian Streams" are available primarily via the Internet on the National Center for Environmental Assessment's home page under the Recent Additions and Publications menus at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea>. A limited number of paper copies are available, contact the EPA; telephone: (703-347-8629); facsimile: (703-347-8691). If you are requesting a paper copy, please provide your name, your mailing address, and the document titles (1) "The Effects of Mountaintop Mines and Valley Fills on Aquatic Ecosystems of the Central Appalachian Coalfields" and (2) "A Field-based Aquatic Life Benchmark for Conductivity in Central Appalachian Streams."

Comments may be submitted electronically via [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), by mail, by facsimile, or by hand delivery/courier. Please follow the detailed instructions provided in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of **Federal Register** Notice (75 FR 30393).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information on submitting comments to the docket, please contact the Office of Environmental Information Docket; telephone: 202-566-1752; facsimile: 202-566-1753; or e-mail: [ORD.Docket@epa.gov](mailto:ORD.Docket@epa.gov). For technical

information, please leave a message at 703-347-8629 or send e-mail to [MTM-Cond@epa.gov](mailto:MTM-Cond@epa.gov).

Dated: July 6, 2010.

**Rebecca Clark,***Acting Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.*

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

[EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0505; FRL-9174-8]

**Oil and Natural Gas Sector—Notice of Public Meeting****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** EPA will be conducting public meetings to provide an opportunity for public involvement during EPA's review of air regulations affecting the oil and natural gas industry. The review in progress covers oil and natural gas exploration and production, as well as natural gas processing, transmission, storage, and distribution. The primary purpose of these meetings is to establish a dialog among government, the affected industry, and other interested members of the public early in the rule development process, as well as to receive information that may be useful to EPA in its review. At these meetings, EPA will explain the regulatory process, provide a brief overview of its regulatory review, solicit information that may be useful to EPA in the review of these rules, and provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions and submit comments. These meetings will be open to the public.

**DATES: Meetings:** There will be daytime and evening meetings to provide greater public access. The first pair of meetings will be held on August 2, 2010, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the Arlington Municipal Building, Arlington, Texas. The second pair of meetings will be held on August 3, 2010, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., in the ballroom of the Holiday Inn Denver East-Stapleton, Denver, Colorado. Meetings may end earlier than the scheduled times based on participation.

**Participation:** Although not required for attendance, we ask that anyone who plans to attend one or more of the meetings provide name, affiliation, and sessions attending to the meeting information contact listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** at least

10 days prior to the meeting. However, anyone who wishes to present comments at any of the meetings must notify the meeting information contact at least 10 days prior to the meeting to facilitate EPA in developing the agenda. We request that an electronic or hard copy of any prepared comments be provided to EPA at the time of the meeting.

*Special Accommodations:* To request accommodation of a disability, please contact the meeting information contact listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, preferably at least 10 days prior to the meeting, to give EPA as much time as possible to process your request.

**ADDRESSES:** The August 2, 2010, meetings will be held at the Arlington Municipal Building, 101 W. Abram St., Arlington, Texas 76010. The August 3, 2010, meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn Denver East-Stapleton, 3333 Quebec St., Denver, Colorado 80207.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** *For information on the EPA Oil and Natural Gas Sector Program, contact:* Mr. Bruce Moore, Sector Policies and Programs Division (E143-01), Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Environmental Protection Agency, 109 T.W. Alexander Dr., Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711; telephone number: (919) 541-5460; fax number: (919) 541-0246; e-mail address: [moore.bruce@epa.gov](mailto:moore.bruce@epa.gov). *For meeting information, contact:* Mr. Nick Parsons, Sector Policies and Programs Division (E143-01), Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Environmental Protection Agency, 109 T.W. Alexander Dr., Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711; telephone number: (919) 541-5372; fax number: (919) 541-0246; e-mail address: [parsons.nick@epa.gov](mailto:parsons.nick@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. General Information**

*Does this action apply to me?*

EPA is in the process of reviewing air regulations affecting the oil and natural gas industry. This review may potentially affect any segment of the oil and natural gas industry, which includes, but is not limited to: Offshore drilling; onshore drilling; oil and natural gas production; natural gas processing; natural gas transmission; and natural gas distribution. You may be affected in some way by regulatory action following this review if you own, operate, work, or live near oil and natural gas operations in the segments listed above.

*Docket.* EPA has established a docket for the above mentioned review process under Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0505. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or in hard copy at the EPA Docket Center, Public Reading Room, EPA West Building, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The 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 Air Docket is (202) 566-1742.

**II. Background**

Under sections 111(b)(1)(B), 112(d)(6), and 112(f)(2) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), EPA has a mandatory duty to take actions relative to the review/revision of new source performance standards (NSPS) and national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants (NESHAP) within 8 years of the issuance of the standards. On January 14, 2009, WildEarth Guardians and San Juan Citizens Alliance brought suit against EPA in the District Court for the District of Columbia, alleging that EPA failed to meet its obligations under sections 111(b)(1)(B), 112(d)(6), and 112(f)(2) of the CAA with respect to the Oil and Natural Gas Production source category. On February 4, 2010, the Court entered a consent decree that resolves the claims in this lawsuit. The consent decree requires, among other things, that EPA sign by January 31, 2011, proposed standards and/or determinations not to issue standards pursuant to sections 111(b)(1)(B), 112(d)(6), and 112(f)(2) of the CAA, and that EPA finalize its proposals by November 30, 2011. The consent decree authorizes EPA to sign by January 31, 2011, a final determination not to review the NSPS pursuant to section 111(b)(1)(B) of the CAA without issuing a proposal for such determination.

EPA is in the process of taking actions under CAA sections 111 and 112 relative to the review/revision of the following NSPS and NESHAP: The NSPS for Equipment Leaks of VOC from Onshore Natural Gas Processing Plants (40 CFR part 60, subpart KKK); the NSPS for Onshore Natural Gas Processing: SO<sub>2</sub> Emissions (40 CFR part 60, subpart LLL); the NESHAP From Oil and Natural Gas Production Facilities (40 CFR part 63, subpart HH); and the NESHAP From Natural Gas Transmission and Storage Facilities (40 CFR part 63, subpart HHH). As part of this process, EPA is holding public meetings in the Dallas, Texas, and

Denver, Colorado, areas, both of which are in regions significantly affected by oil and natural gas production operations. The purpose of these meetings is to establish a dialog among government, the affected industry, and other interested members of the public, as well as to receive information that may be useful to EPA in its review of the NSPS and NESHAP identified above. Such information could include information regarding the nature of local oil and gas production operations, air emissions from oil and gas production operations, control technologies and/or practices that may minimize or otherwise address air emissions, and information on the public health, welfare, and other environmental impacts of air emissions from oil and gas production operations. At these meetings, EPA plans to provide a brief overview of the Agency's review process for the NSPS and NESHAP identified above, including background information on these regulations. There will also be opportunities for questions and answers. In addition, any interested party from industry or the general public may present oral or written information to EPA at these meetings.

Dated: July 7, 2010.

**Mary E. Henigin,**

*Acting Director, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards.*

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-9175-1]

**RIN 2040-AD94**

**Drinking Water Strategy Contaminants as Group(s)—Notice of Web Dialogue**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** On March 22, 2010, Administrator Lisa P. Jackson announced the Drinking Water Strategy, a new vision to expand public health protection for drinking water by going beyond the traditional framework. The Drinking Water Strategy includes the following four principles: Addressing some contaminants as group(s) rather than one at a time so that enhancement of drinking water protection can be achieved cost-effectively; fostering development of new drinking water technologies to address health risks posed by a broad array of contaminants; using the authority of multiple statutes to help protect drinking water; and