

this matter; go to the U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, Room 1J-018 (Resource Room of the Building Technologies Program), 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0121, telephone number (202) 586-9127, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Please call Ms. Brenda Edwards-Jones at the above telephone number for additional information regarding visiting the Resource Room. Please note that the Department's Freedom of Information Reading Room (formerly Room 1E-190 at the Forrestal Building) is no longer housing rulemaking materials.

Electronic copies of the California Petition are available online at either the Department of Energy's Web site at the following URL address: http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/state_petitions.html or the CEC's Web site at the following URL address: http://www.energy.ca.gov/appliances/2005-09-13_PETITION_CLOTHES_WASHERS.PDF. An electronic copy of California's water plan update and related material is available online at the California Department of Water Resources Web site at the following URL address: <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/>. Electronic copies of comments received by the Department on California's Petition and the California Energy Commission's rebuttal statement are available online at the following URL address: http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/state_petitions.html.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bryan Berringer, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Building Technologies, EE-2J, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0121, (202) 586-0371. E-mail: bryan.berringer@ee.doe.gov. Thomas DePriest, Esq., U.S. Department of Energy, Office of General Counsel, GC-72, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0121, (202) 586-9507, e-mail: Thomas.DePriest@hq.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Authority
- II. Background

I. Authority

Part B of Title III of EPCA established the Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products Other Than Automobiles. (42 U.S.C. 6291-6309) Products covered under the program, including residential clothes washers,

and the authority to regulate them, are listed in section 322. (42 U.S.C. 6292) Section 325(g) (42 U.S.C. 6295(g)) establishes standards for certain types of residential clothes washers and requires the Department to issue two rulemakings to consider further amendments.

Federal energy efficiency requirements for residential products generally preempt State laws or regulations concerning energy conservation testing, labeling, and standards. (42 U.S.C. 6297(a)-(c)) However, the Department can grant waivers of Federal preemption (hereafter "waiver" or "exemption") for particular State laws or regulations, in accordance with the procedures and other provisions of section 327(d) of EPCA. (42 U.S.C. 6297(d)) In particular, section 327(d)(1)(A) of EPCA provides that any State or river basin commission with a State regulation regarding energy use, energy efficiency, or water use requirements for products regulated by the Energy Conservation Program, may petition for an exemption from Federal preemption and seek to apply its own State regulation. (42 U.S.C. 6297(d)(1)(A))

Section 327(d)(2) of EPCA requires that the Department afford interested persons a reasonable opportunity to make written comments, including rebuttal comments, related to the petition. (42 U.S.C. 6297(d)(2)) In addition, section 327(d)(2) of EPCA provides the Department with the authority to extend its decision date to within one year after the date on which the Department accepted the petition. However, the Department must publish notice of this extension in the **Federal Register** and note its reasons for delay. (42 U.S.C. 6297(d)(2)) In addition, should the Department decide to grant a petition, section 336(a)(1) of EPCA requires that DOE afford interested persons the opportunity to present written and oral data, views, and arguments with respect to any proposed rules prescribed under section 327. (42 U.S.C. 6306(a)(1))

II. Background

On September 16, 2005, the Department received a petition from the CEC, dated September 13, 2005, pursuant to the requirements of section 327(d) of EPCA (42 U.S.C. 6297(d)) and Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 430, subpart D, and sections 430.41(a)(1) and 430.42 of the CFR. However, by letter dated November 18, 2005, the Department notified the CEC that its petition had failed to comply with certain requirements set out in 10 CFR 430.42(c). The CEC responded on

December 5, 2005, and provided the required information. By letter dated December 23, 2005, the Department notified the CEC that it had accepted the California Petition as supplemented.

In accordance with section 327(d)(2) of EPCA (42 U.S.C. 6297(d)(2)) and 10 CFR 430.43, the Department published notice of the California Petition in the **Federal Register** on February 6, 2006 (hereafter "February 2006 notice"). (71 FR 6022) The February 2006 notice provides a summary of the Department's authority regarding petitions for exemption, the California Petition, and criteria for evaluating petitions for exemption. In the February 2006 notice, to help the Department evaluate the California Petition's request, the Department also invited the public to submit comments, data, and information regarding the California Petition by April 7, 2006.

In order to afford the CEC a reasonable opportunity to review public comments and provide rebuttal, the Department notified the CEC by letter dated April 14, 2006, of its opportunity to provide rebuttal comments. CEC rebuttal comments were received by the Department on May 15, 2006.

In this notice, the Department extends the period for evaluation of the California Petition to December 23, 2006, in order to provide the Department adequate time to evaluate the petition in light of public comments and CEC rebuttal comments received. The Department will consider the information and views submitted and make a determination on the California Petition. At such point, the Department will either provide notice of a proposed rule on which it will seek written and oral comment, or provide a notice of, and the reasons for, denial of the California Petition.

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 14, 2006.

Alexander A. Karsner,

Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

[FR Doc. E6-9637 Filed 6-19-06; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-8185-5]

National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92463, EPA gives notice of a public teleconference of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT). NACEPT provides advice to the EPA Administrator on a broad range of environmental policy, technology, and management issues. The Council is a panel of experts who represent diverse interests from academia, industry, non-governmental organizations, and local, state, and tribal governments. The purpose of this teleconference is to discuss and approve comments on EPA's Draft 2006–2011 Strategic Plan from a subset of the Council. A copy of the agenda for the meeting will be posted at <http://www.epa.gov/ocem/nacept/cal-nacept.htm>.

DATES: NACEPT will hold a public teleconference on Friday, July 7, 2006 at 2 p.m.—3:30 p.m. eastern daylight time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the U.S. EPA Office of Cooperative Environmental Management at 655 15th Street, NW., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sonia Altieri, Designated Federal Officer, altieri.sonia@epa.gov, (202) 233–0061, U.S. EPA, Office of Cooperative Environmental Management (1601E), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Requests to make oral comments or to provide written comments to the Council should be sent to Sonia Altieri, Designated Federal Officer, at the contact information above by July 3, 2006. The public is welcome to attend all portions of the meeting, but seating is limited and is allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis. Members of the public wishing to gain access to the conference room on the day of the meeting must contact Sonia Altieri at (202) 233–0061 or altieri.sonia@epa.gov by Thursday, July 6, 2006.

Meeting Access: For information on access or services for individuals with disabilities, please contact Sonia Altieri at 202–233–0061 or altieri.sonia@epa.gov. To request accommodation of a disability, please contact Sonia Altieri, preferably at least 10 days prior to the meeting, to give EPA as much time as possible to process your request.

Dated: June 12, 2006.

Sonia Altieri,

Designated Federal Officer.

[FR Doc. E6–9656 Filed 6–19–06; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–8185–9]

Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office; Notification of an Upcoming Teleconference of the SAB Ecological Processes and Effects Committee

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office announces a public teleconference of the SAB Ecological Processes and Effects Committee.

DATES: The public teleconference will be held on July 12, 2006, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (eastern daylight time).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Members of the public who wish to obtain the call-in number and access code for the teleconference may contact Dr. Thomas Armitage, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), by mail at EPA SAB Staff Office (1400F), U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460; by telephone at (202) 343–9995; or by e-mail at armitage.thomas@epa.gov. General information about the SAB may be found on the SAB Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/sab>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92–463, notice is hereby given that the SAB Ecological Processes and Effects Committee will hold a public teleconference to discuss a draft ecological risk assessment workshop summary document. On February 7–8, 2006, the Committee held a public workshop on the state-of-the-practice of ecological risk assessment. Background information on the workshop was provided in a **Federal Register** notice published on September 8, 2005 (70 FR 53360). The Committee is holding the teleconference to discuss a draft workshop summary document and development of a report to EPA. The Committee's draft workshop summary document and teleconference agenda will be posted on the SAB Web site provided above prior to the teleconference. The Panel will comply with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and all appropriate SAB procedural policies.

Procedures for Providing Public Input

Members of the public may submit relevant written or oral information for

the SAB Committee to consider during the advisory process. Oral Statements: In general, individuals or groups requesting an oral presentation at a public teleconference will be limited to three minutes per speaker with no more than a total of fifteen minutes for all speakers. Interested parties should contact the DFO, contact information provided above, in writing via e-mail seven days before the teleconference in order to be placed on the public speaker list. Written Statements: Written statements should be received in the SAB Staff Office at least seven days before the meeting so that the information may be made available to the Panel for their consideration. Written statements should be supplied to the DFO in the following formats: one hard copy with original signature, and one electronic copy via e-mail (acceptable file format: Adobe Acrobat, WordPerfect, Word, or Rich Text files (in IBM–PC/Windows 98/2000/XP format).

Meeting Accommodations

For information on access or services for people with disabilities, please contact the DFO, contact information provided above. To request accommodation of a disability please contact the DFO, preferably at least ten business days prior to the meeting, to give EPA as much time as possible to process your request.

Dated: June 15, 2006.

Anthony F. Maciorowski,

Associate Director for Science, EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office.

[FR Doc. E6–9655 Filed 6–19–06; 8:45 am]

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EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Notice of Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, June 28, 2006, 9:30 a.m. eastern time.

PLACE: Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Conference Room on the Ninth Floor of the EEOC Office Building, 1801 "L" Street, NW., Washington, DC 20507.

STATUS: The meeting will be open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Open Session

1. Announcement of Notation Votes, and
2. Employment of Individuals with Disabilities in the Federal Government.