

## VII. Public Record and Electronic Submissions

The official record for this action, as well as the public version, has been established for this action under docket control number "OPP-00557" (including comments and data submitted electronically as described below). A public version of this record, including printed, paper versions of electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as CBI, is available for inspection from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The official record is located at the Virginia address in "ADDRESSES" at the beginning of this document.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at:  
opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comment and data will also be accepted on disks in Wordperfect 5.1/6.1 or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number "OPP-00557." Electronic comments on this action may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

### List of Subjects

Environmental protection, FQPA, Pesticides.

Dated: October 23, 1998.

**Lynn R. Goldman,**

*Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.*

[FR Doc. 98-29013 Filed 10-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6181-6]

### National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Workgroup on Waste Transfer Stations; Notice of Public Hearings

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is sponsoring a fact finding meeting held by the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) working group on Waste Transfer Stations (WTS) for the purpose of gathering information related to potential environmental issues related to Waste Transfer Stations. Information gathered from these meetings will be gathered in a report for recommendations to EPA.

The WTS working group was formed after a NEJAC resolution calling for EPA to "examine the risks from the siting and operation of Waste Transfer Stations for the purpose of determining its regulatory responsibilities and prescribe requirements to reduce health risks associated with such facilities." The WTS working group consists of representatives of community based organizations, business interests, and elected officials from impacted communities for the purposes of advising on the design and implementation of the WTS study.

The workgroup plans to conduct two fact finding meetings: the first one will take place in New York City on November 10, 1998; the second meeting will take place in Washington, D.C., meeting day and location to be announced. The New York meeting will take place at the Marriot Hotel in Brooklyn on November 10, 1998, 333 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11021, (718) 246-7000.

Please call Kent Benjamin, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response at (202) 260-2822 for more information or Nancy Wilson at, 202-260-1910, if Kent is unavailable.

Dated: October 26, 1998.

**Linda Garczynski**

*Director, Outreach Special Projects, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.*

[FR Doc. 98-29018 Filed 10-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6181-5]

### Notice of Policy and Procedures for Voluntary Preparation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Documents

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

**ACTION:** Notice of new policy and repeal of existing policy.

**SUMMARY:** EPA is today withdrawing its May 7, 1974 Statement of Policy for Voluntary Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) (39 FR 16186) and publishing a Statement of Policy for Voluntary Preparation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Documents. The new Statement of Policy updates Agency policy to make it more consistent with current practice. This policy change widens the scope of Agency activities for which a NEPA document may be prepared voluntarily and enables EPA to address actions for which a voluntary EIS would have been

prepared previously with a voluntary Environmental Assessment (EA) if appropriate. Additionally, EPA is withdrawing the Procedures for the Voluntary Preparation (39 FR 37419, October 21, 1974) and instead will use procedures as set out at 40 CFR Part 6, Subparts A through D, as specified below.

**DATES:** This policy shall take effect October 29, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joseph Montgomery at (202) 564-7157; *Email:*

*montgomery.joseph@epamail.epa.gov;* or Marguerite Duffy at (202) 564-7148; *E-mail:duffy.marguerite@epa.gov;* U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Federal Activities (2252-A), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Background

In the November 28, 1997 **Federal Register** (62 FR 63334), EPA proposed changes in its Statement of Policy for Voluntary EISs, which it had adopted and published on May 7, 1974 in the **Federal Register** (39 FR 16186). This revised policy updates EPA's 1974 policy to reflect how Congress and the Courts have defined EPA's NEPA obligations and to ensure that EPA's voluntary practices regarding NEPA compliance are consistent with practices provided in the NEPA regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) at 40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508. The revised policy also encourages expansion of the increased discretionary use of NEPA procedures voluntarily in circumstances where they can be particularly helpful for decision-making involving other federal agencies, cross-media issues, or other concerns such as environmental justice. The revised policy affects certain EPA standard-setting and cancellation procedures.

#### II. Response to Comments

A total of four comments were received in response to the November 28, 1997 proposed changes. Three organizations were supportive of the proposed changes. One state government concurred with the proposed changes but requested that EPA consult with states regarding any actions which were previously reviewed through the EIS process but which EPA believes should be evaluated through environmental assessments in the future. The state also requested that EPA continue to prepare EISs in the case of site designations under the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries