

effective process permitting elected officials and other representatives of State, local and tribal governments "to provide meaningful and timely input in the development of regulatory proposals containing significant unfunded mandates."

Today's rule does not create a mandate on State, local or tribal governments. The rule does not impose any enforceable duties on these entities. The State administers its underground storage tank program voluntarily, and any duties on other State, local or tribal governmental entities arise from that program, not from today's action. Accordingly, the requirements of section 1(a) of Executive Order 12875 do not apply to this rule.

Compliance With Executive Order 13084

Under Executive Order 13084, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, EPA may not issue a regulation that is not required by statute, that significantly or uniquely affects the communities of Indian tribal governments, and that imposes substantial direct compliance costs on those communities, unless the Federal government provides the funds necessary to pay the direct compliance costs incurred by the tribal governments, or EPA consults with those governments. If EPA complies by consulting, Executive Order 13084 requires EPA to provide to the Office of Management and Budget, in a separately identified section of the preamble to the rule, a description of the extent of EPA's prior consultation with representatives of affected tribal governments, a summary of the nature of their concerns, and a statement supporting the need to issue the regulation. In addition, Executive Order 13084 requires EPA to develop an effective process permitting elected officials and other representatives of Indian tribal governments "to provide meaningful and timely input in the development of regulatory policies on matters that significantly or uniquely affect their communities."

Today's rule does not significantly or uniquely affect the communities of Indian tribal governments. North Carolina is not approved to implement the underground storage tank program in Indian Country. This rule has no effect on the underground storage tank program that EPA implements in the Indian Country within the State. Accordingly, the requirements of section 3(b) of Executive Order 13084 do not apply to this rule.

National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act

Section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 ("NTTAA"), Pub. L. No. 104-113, section 12(d) (15 U.S.C. 272 note) directs EPA to use voluntary consensus standards in its regulatory activities unless to do so would be inconsistent with applicable law or otherwise impractical. Voluntary consensus standards are technical standards (e.g., materials specifications, test methods, sampling procedures, and business practices) that are developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies. The NTTAA directs EPA to provide Congress, through OMB, explanations when the Agency decides not to use available and applicable voluntary consensus standards.

This action does not involve technical standards. Therefore, EPA did not consider the use of any voluntary consensus standards.

Paperwork Reduction Act

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, Federal agencies must consider the paperwork burden imposed by an information request contained in a proposed rule or a final rule. This rule will not impose any information requirements upon the regulated community.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 281

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Hazardous materials, State program approval, Underground storage tanks.

Authority: This notice is issued under the authority of Section 9004 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act as amended 42 U.S.C. 6912(a), 6926, 6974(b).

Dated: July 29, 1999.

A. Stanley Meiburg,

Acting, Regional Administrator, Region 4.
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

42 CFR Chapter IV

[HCFA-3250-N3]

RIN 0938-A192

Medicare Program; Negotiated Rulemaking; Coverage and Administrative Policies for Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Tests; Announcement of Additional Public Meetings

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), HHS.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: This document announces an additional public meeting of the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on Coverage and Administrative Policies for Clinical Laboratory Tests. The Committee was mandated by section 4554(b) of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, and established under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

DATES: The meetings are scheduled as follows:

1. August 30, 1999, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
2. August 31, 1999, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 800, 200 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC. 20201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jackie Sheridan, (410) 786-4635

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

We published a notice in the **Federal Register** on June 3, 1998 (63 FR 30166) announcing the intent to form a negotiated rulemaking committee to provide advice and make recommendations to the Secretary on the content of a proposed rule that will establish national coverage and administrative policies for clinical laboratory tests payable under Part B of the Medicare program. The notice also announced the dates of the Committee meetings that began on July 13, 1998. The Committee held meetings through January 1999.

The Committee wishes to meet again on August 30 and 31, 1999. The opportunity for public comments will be 9:00 a.m. on August 30, 1999. The meetings will be held at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 800, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Committee's comments on the draft proposed rule. The meetings are open to the public without advance registration.

Public attendance at the meetings is limited to space availability.

Authority: Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2)
(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: August 3, 1999.

Michael M. Hash,

Deputy Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

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