

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**[FRL-7457-7]****A National Agenda for the Environment and the Aging: Setting Priorities for Research and Education To Address Environmental Hazards That Threaten the Health of Older Persons****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice of public listening sessions and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In October 2002 EPA launched an Aging Initiative to study the effects of environmental health hazards on older persons and examine the impact that a rapidly aging population will have on the environment. The Initiative will also identify model programs that will provide opportunities for older persons to volunteer in their communities to reduce environmental hazards and protect the environment for future generations. EPA is seeking public comment through Friday, May 16, 2003 to assure that the final agenda includes input from the broadest base of expertise including Federal, State, local and tribal governments, public and private organizations, professional health, aging and environmental associations, academia, business and volunteer organizations, and others including older Americans and their families. EPA encourages comments from all those interested in addressing environmental health hazards that affect the health of older persons.

In addition, six public listening sessions will be held this Spring to gather input for the National Agenda. The meetings are open to the public. Pre-registration is required due to the limited seating capacity at each location. When registering to attend or present comments during the public listening sessions, individuals requiring special accommodations should note their needs so that appropriate arrangements can be made. In addition, every effort will be made to ensure that non-English speaking persons can participate in public meetings and through written comments.

Public Listening Sessions**DATES:**

	Registration deadline*
1. Thursday, April 3, 2003, 1:30–3:30 p.m., Tampa, FL.	March 26.
2. Tuesday, April 8, 2003, 1:30–3:30 p.m., San Antonio, TX.	April 1.

	Registration deadline*
3. Tuesday, April 15, 2003, 1:30–3:30 p.m., Iowa City, IA.	April 8.
4. Wednesday, April 23, 2003, 2–4 p.m., Pittsburgh, PA.	April 16.
5. Tuesday, April 29, 2003, 1:30–3:30 p.m., Los Angeles, CA.	April 22.
6. Wednesday, May 7, 2003, 1:30–3:30 p.m., Baltimore, MD.	April 29.

*Pre-registration is required.

ADDRESSES:

1. *Tampa* Auditorium, University of South Florida College of Public Health, 13201 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard, Tampa, Florida
2. *San Antonio* University Auditorium, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, 7703 Floyd Curl Drive, San Antonio, Texas
3. *Iowa City* Second Floor Ballroom, Iowa Memorial Union, the University of Iowa, Corner of Jefferson and Madison Streets, Iowa City, Iowa
4. *Pittsburgh* Pennsylvania Room, First Floor, Pittsburgh Athletic Association, 4215 Fifth Avenue (Oakland area), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
5. *Los Angeles* Grand Horizon Room, 3rd Floor, Covell Commons, Sunset Village on the UCLA campus, Los Angeles, California
6. *Baltimore* Auditorium, School of Nursing, University of Maryland Baltimore, 655 West Lombard Street (corner of Lombard and Penn), Baltimore, Maryland

For additional information, contact Kathy Sykes, EPA's Aging Initiative Coordinator, at 202–564–2188 or by email: aging.info@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA's Aging Initiative is working with various partners on the development of a National Agenda on the Environment and the Aging

1. *Tampa* University of South Florida; West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging
2. *San Antonio* University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio; Bexar County Area Agency on Aging
3. *Iowa City* University of Iowa College of Public Health and The Center on Aging; The Heritage Agency
4. *Pittsburgh* University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health; Allegheny Area Agency on Aging
5. *Los Angeles* University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Graduate School of Public Health, UCLA Center on Aging, City of Los Angeles Department of Aging; Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging

6. *Baltimore* University of Maryland Baltimore School of Medicine and Center for Research on Aging, University of Maryland Baltimore School of Nursing

At the beginning of each public listening session an EPA official will describe the process that will be used to develop the National Agenda on the Environment and the Aging. Public comments will follow from pre-registered speakers who wish to contribute to the agenda by offering brief comments on one or all of the three priority areas described below. Each presentation will be limited to three minutes and the written or preferably typed statement of the comments must be provided in advance. Please fax your statement to (202) 564–2733 no later than the registration deadline for the session you have selected (see above for listing of deadlines). There is no page limitation on written comments.

If time allows, members of the audience will have an opportunity to provide comments. Pre-registration is required for attendance at each session and for providing comments due to limited seating and time. To register to attend or participate, go to <http://www.epa.gov/aging> and click on the "Public Listening Sessions" side bar and follow instructions to register to attend or to speak. Deadlines to pre-register for each session are provided.

National Agenda for the Environment and the Aging*Setting Priorities for Research and Education to Address Environmental Hazards That Threaten the Health of Older Persons*

In October 2002 EPA launched an Aging Initiative to study the effects of environmental health hazards on older persons and examine the impact that a rapidly aging population will have on the environment. The Initiative will also identify model programs that will provide opportunities for older persons to volunteer in their communities to reduce environmental hazards and protect the environment for future generations. EPA is seeking public comment through Friday, May 16, 2003, to assure that the final agenda includes input from the broadest base of expertise including Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, public and private organizations, professional health, aging and environmental associations, academia, business and volunteer organizations, and other stakeholders, including older Americans and their families. EPA encourages comments from all those interested in contributing to the agenda. The agenda