

consistent with EPA's past practice where an older version of the MOBILE model has been used prior to the release of a newer version that includes technical corrections in emission estimates. We understand that the Bay Area has begun work on the plan revision, that the EMFAC2002 model will be used in development of the motor vehicle emission inventories in the plan and that the SIP should be submitted to EPA by the April 2004 deadline.

In addition, on June 14, 2002, CARB submitted a letter indicating the State's intention to submit comprehensive revisions to the progress, attainment, and maintenance SIPs and the budgets for most areas in California. These SIP revisions, would reflect, among other new information, the State's revised motor vehicle emissions factors using EMFAC2002 and updated information on vehicle fleet, age distribution, and activity levels (letter from Michael P. Kenny, CARB, to Wayne Nastri, EPA). In this letter, CARB acknowledged that the previously approved budgets had become outdated and made clear its intention to update these budgets as part of a comprehensive update to the plans. CARB also requested that EPA limit the duration of its prior approvals of the emission budgets.

In response, on July 16, 2002 (67 FR 46618), EPA proposed to limit our approvals of the existing SIP budgets to last only until the effective date of our adequacy finding for new budgets that replace the existing approved budgets for the same pollutant, CAA requirement, and year. That proposal was finalized on November 15, 2002 (67 FR 69139), limiting our prior approvals of the emission budgets. Normally, new budgets that replace existing budgets in approved plans cannot be used until the corresponding plans have been fully approved as part of the SIP (see 40 CFR 93.118(e)). However, since approval of the existing budgets now expires when we determine that the new budgets are adequate, the updated budgets can be employed in transportation conformity determinations within a few months of their submission, rather than only when the SIP is finally approved, which could take as long as 18 months.

Consistent with the June 2002 letter, CARB has already begun submitting revised SIPs. Ozone maintenance plans, new and revised, have already been submitted for San Diego and Santa Barbara. A revised statewide CO maintenance plan and revised regional air quality plans for San Joaquin Valley, South Coast, Coachella Valley, and Ventura County are also expected within the next year. Motor vehicle

emission budgets from all of these plans would go into effect upon determination of a positive adequacy finding, rather than after a full plan approval and be available for conformity analyses using EMFAC2002.

#### *H. Summary of EPA Actions*

EPA is approving EMFAC2002 as submitted by CARB on December 20, 2002 with the following limitations and conditions.

(1) The approval is limited to California.

(2) The approval is Statewide and applies to estimation of hydrocarbon, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter emissions, lead, sulfur oxides and carbon dioxide. However, EMFAC2002 will only be used in transportation conformity for pollutants and precursors that affect transportation emissions and are identified in air quality plans as significant. EPA is also approving EMFAC2002 to estimate hotspot emissions for carbon monoxide.

(3) A 3-month statewide conformity grace period will be established beginning April 1, 2003 and ends June 30, 2003.

Dated: March 20, 2003.

**Wayne Nastri,**

*Regional Administrator, EPA Region IX.*

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-7475-3]

### **EPA National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Teleconference Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice; notification of Public Advisory Committee teleconference meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) will meet in a public teleconference on Thursday, April 17, 2003, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Eastern Time. The meeting will be hosted out of the main conference room, U.S. EPA, 655 15th Street, NW., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005. The meeting is open to the public, however, due to limited space, seating will be on a registration-only basis. For further

information regarding the teleconference meeting, or how to register and obtain the phone number, please contact the individuals listed below.

#### **Background**

NACEPT is a federal advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92463. NACEPT provides advice and recommendations to the Administrator and other EPA officials on a broad range of domestic and international environmental policy issues. NACEPT consists of a representative cross-section of EPA's partners and principle constituents who provide advice and recommendations on policy issues and serves as a sounding board for new strategies that the Agency is developing.

#### **Purpose of Meeting**

The NACEPT Council will review and discuss the EPA's draft FY 2003-2008 Strategic Plan. The draft Strategic Plan is built around five goals, centered on the themes of air, water, land, communities and ecosystems, and compliance and environmental stewardship. EPA is currently soliciting public comments on the draft strategic plan. This meeting will provide the full NACEPT Council the opportunity to make recommendations on EPA's draft strategic plan.

#### **Availability of Review Materials**

EPA's Draft FY 2003-2008 Draft Strategic Plan is available electronically from EPA's Office of Chief Financial Officer, at <http://epa.gov/ocfo/plan/plan.htm>.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Members of the public wishing to gain access to the conference room on the day of the meeting must contact Ms. Gwen Whitt, Designated Federal Officer for NACEPT, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1601E), Office of Cooperative Environmental Management, 655 15th Street, NW., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005; telephone/voice mail at (202) 233-0090 or via email at [whitt.gwen@epa.gov](mailto:whitt.gwen@epa.gov). You may also contact Sonia Altieri at (202) 233-0090 if you have any questions. The agenda will be available to the public upon request. General comments from the public on the draft strategic plan should be sent to <http://epa.gov/ocfo/plan/plan.htm>. Specific comments for NACEPT's consideration should be submitted no later than Monday April 21, 2003.

#### **General Information**

Additional information concerning the National Advisory Council for