

facility location and the extent that agencies were implementing these laws and policies. In addition, the GAO report identified recommendations to be implemented by GSA. In October 2001, in response to a recommendation contained in the GAO Report, GSA agreed to issue a **Federal Register** bulletin that defines the term "rural area" and recommends that Federal agencies, having their own statutory authority to acquire real property, include a written statement in their files affirming that they have given first priority to locating in a rural area.

Dated: January 13, 2003.

G. Martin Wagner,

Associate Administrator, Office of Governmentwide Policy.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

[FMR Bulletin 2003-B1]

Real Property

TO: Heads of Federal Agencies
SUBJECT: Locating Federal Facilities in Rural Areas

1. *What is the purpose of this bulletin?* This bulletin is intended to assist Federal agencies, having their own statutory authority to acquire real property, in complying with the Rural Development Act of 1972.

2. *What is the effective date of this bulletin?* This bulletin is effective January 21, 2003.

3. *When does this bulletin expire?* This bulletin will remain in effect indefinitely until specifically cancelled.

4. *What is the background?*

a. In 1972, the Rural Development Act was enacted which directed Federal agencies to develop policies and procedures to give first priority to the location of new offices and other Federal facilities in rural areas. The intent of the Act is to revitalize and develop rural areas and help foster a balance between rural and urban America.

b. In 1996, Pub. L. 104-127 eliminated the "private business enterprise" language in 7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(7) which had served to define the term "rural area" for the purpose of locating Federal facilities.

c. In July 2001, GAO issued GAO Final Report GAO-01-805, entitled "Facilities Location: Agencies Should Pay More Attention to Costs and Rural Development Act," which examined the federal laws and policies governing facility location and the extent that agencies were implementing these laws and policies. In addition, the GAO report identified recommendations to be implemented by GSA.

d. In October 2001, in response to a recommendation contained in the GAO Report, GSA agreed to issue a **Federal Register** bulletin that defines the term "rural area" and recommends that Federal agencies, having their own statutory authority to acquire real property, include a written statement in their files affirming that they have given first priority to locating in a rural area.

5. *What "rural area" definition does GSA recommend for Federal agencies having their own statutory authority to acquire real property?*

GSA recommends that Federal agencies, having their own statutory authority to acquire real property, use the following "rural area" definition: "Rural area means a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of 50,000 inhabitants or less, other than an urbanized area immediately adjacent to a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population in excess of 50,000 inhabitants, as specified in 7 U.S.C. 2009."

6. *How does GSA recommend that Federal agencies, having their own real property authority, demonstrate compliance with the Rural Development Act?*

GSA recommends that Federal agencies, having their own statutory authority to acquire real property, demonstrate compliance with the Rural Development Act by including a written statement in their files affirming that they have given first priority to the location of new offices and other Federal facilities in rural areas.

7. *Who should we contact for further information regarding locating Federal facilities in rural areas?*

General Services Administration, Office of Governmentwide Policy, Real Property Policy Division, Attn: Stanley C. Langfeld, 1800 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20405, Telephone Number: (202) 501-1737, E-mail Address: stanley.langfeld@gsa.gov.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[60Day-03-36]

Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed projects or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer on (404) 498-1210.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Send comments to Seleda Perryman, CDC Assistant Reports Clearance Officer, 1600 Clifton Road, MS-D24, Atlanta, GA 30333. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Proposed Project: Epidemiologic Study Of Gastrointestinal Health Effects And Exposure To Disinfection By-products Associated With Consumption Of Conventionally Treated Groundwater—New—National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Background

The primary goal of drinking water treatment is the removal of microorganisms responsible for waterborne disease. The addition of disinfectants such as chlorine is one of the most important steps in pathogen inactivation and may in some cases (such as in many groundwater systems) be the only treatment employed. However, chlorine also reacts with organic compounds in the water to produce halogenated organic by-products (disinfection by-products [DBPs]). One of the most commonly measured groups of DBPs is the trihalomethanes (THMs). Human exposure to THMs has been associated with bladder and colorectal cancer. Public water providers must constantly balance the acute risks of gastrointestinal (GI) illness associated with exposure to microbial pathogens against the long-term risks associated with exposure to DBPs.

This study will estimate the risks for endemic GI illness associated with