

On December 21, 2000, EPA denied the Audit Law component of the petition, but continued its review of Ohio EPA's implementation of the programs covered by the amended and supplemented petition.

Because the petition seeks withdrawal or revocation of programs, the focus of our review was whether it is appropriate to initiate withdrawal or revocation proceedings based on the withdrawal criteria for each of the affected programs. The Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and their implementing regulations set forth the withdrawal or revocation criteria for programs authorized, delegated or approved pursuant to these acts. EPA reviewed Ohio EPA's implementation of each program based on the criteria for that program.

Beginning in January of 2000, EPA Region 5 staff conducted reviews of Ohio's environmental programs covered by the petition. EPA staff visited Ohio EPA district and central offices, the Ohio Attorney General's Office and local air agencies; interviewed employees; and reviewed files. EPA staff also reviewed the affidavits submitted by the petitioners in July and August of 2000. EPA reviewed how Ohio EPA implemented the affected programs during the period from 1995 to 2000.

On September 4, 2001, EPA Region 5 made public a preliminary report, dated August 30, 2001, entitled "Draft Report on U.S. EPA Review of Ohio Environmental Programs" (Draft Report) summarizing the petitioners' allegations and setting forth its preliminary findings with respect to the requests to withdraw or revoke the eight environmental programs. EPA held two public meetings in Columbus, Ohio on November 13, 2001, to answer questions and take comments on the report. EPA accepted comments from the public until January 14, 2002.

The Draft Report also made recommendations that, if implemented, would alleviate concerns related to the withdrawal criteria and obviate the need for further review. EPA followed up with Ohio EPA on the recommendations made in the Draft Report. Ohio EPA has taken steps in each program that should benefit its implementation of those programs.

A final report and background documents which detail EPA's findings with respect to each allegation in the petition for each program, along with a responsiveness summary that responds to the comments made at the public meeting and during the comment period are at the following EPA Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/ohioreview>. You

may also access this information at the following repositories located in Ohio: Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County, 800 Vine Street, Cincinnati; Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County, 305 Wick Avenue, Youngstown; Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 South Grant Avenue, Columbus; Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, 325 Michigan Street, Toledo; Briggs Lawrence County Public Library, 321 South Fourth Street, Ironton; Cleveland Public Library, 325 Superior Avenue, Cleveland; State of Ohio Senate, Senate Building, Energy, Natural Resources & Environment, Room 143, First Floor, Columbus; Dayton & Montgomery County Public Library, 215 East Third Street, Dayton; Washington County Public Library, 615 Fifth Street, Marietta; Dover Public Library, 525 North Walnut Street, Dover; State of Ohio House of Representatives, Environmental Committee, 77 South High Street, 13th Floor, Columbus.

As discussed in detail in the final report and background documents, EPA did not find sufficient evidence to justify withdrawal or revocation of the programs covered by the petition. Therefore, EPA denied the petition to withdraw or revoke its approval, delegation, or authorization from the State of Ohio to administer certain Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act environmental programs by letter dated February 7, 2003.

Dated: February 7, 2003.

Thomas V. Skinner,

Regional Administrator, Region 5.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7453-2]

Annual Conference on Analysis of Pollutants in the Environment

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Announcement of conference.

SUMMARY: The Office of Water's Office of Science and Technology, and Battelle will co-sponsor the "26th Annual Conference on Analysis of Pollutants in the Environment" to discuss all aspects of environmental measurement. The conference is open to the public.

DATES: The annual conference will be held on April 29-30, 2003. On April 29, 2003, the conference will begin at 8:45 a.m. and adjourn at 5:30 p.m. A workshop on "Whole Effluent Toxicity

(WET) Testing to Support EPA's Final Rule" will be presented from 3 to 5:30 p.m. On April 30, 2003, the conference will begin at 8:45 a.m. and adjourn at 5 p.m. On May 1, 2003, a public meeting on "Detection and Quantitation" will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a one-hour break from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza Hotel, 350 North Orleans Street, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A. 60654.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Conference and workshop arrangements are being conducted by DynCorp Systems & Solutions LLC. For information on registration, conference fees, hotel rates, reservations, and transportation, please contact Jennifer Maglinao, by e-mail at jennifer.maglinao@DynCorp.com or by telephone at (703) 461-2137. If you have technical questions regarding the conference, workshop, or public meeting, please contact Marion Kelly by e-mail at kelly.marion@epa.gov or by facsimile at (202) 566-1053.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 26th Annual Conference on Analysis of Pollutants in the Environment is designed to bring together representatives of regulated industries, commercial environmental laboratories, State and Federal regulators, municipal water and wastewater laboratories, and environmental consultants and contractors to discuss all aspects of environmental measurement focusing on environmental water regulations, compliance monitoring, and related issues.

The tentative program topics for the conference follow:

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Welcome and Opening Remarks.

Update on Analytical Methods in EPA's Wastewater Programs.

Pollutants to be Tested for in EPA's 2004 National Sewage Sludge Survey.

E-Chem, AOAC-International's Methods Database.

Automated Discrete Sample Analyses Applied to Standard Environmental Methods.

Validation of Improved Methods for Fecal Coliforms and *Salmonella* in Biosolids.

Determination of *Cryptosporidium* in Water Using Molecular Methods.

Uncertainty in Microbiological Measurements.

Workshop on "Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Testing to Support EPA's Final Rule".