requirements of § 194.22. After EPA reviews these documents for adequacy, EPA will conduct an inspection of a DOE audit of the site to determine whether the requirements set out in these documents are being adequately implemented in accordance with Conditions 2 and 3 of EPA’s WIPP certification decision (Criteria for the Certification and Recertification of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant’s Compliance With the 40 CFR Part 191 Disposal Regulations: Certification Decision). Section 194.8 of the WIPP Compliance Criteria (as amended by the final certification decision) provides the public at least 30 days to comment on the documents placed in EPA’s docket relevant to the site approval process. If EPA determines that the provisions in the documents are adequately implemented, EPA will notify DOE by letter and place the letter in the official Air Docket in Washington DC, and in the informational docket locations in New Mexico. A positive approval letter will allow DOE to begin shipping TRU waste from RFETS. EPA will not make a determination of compliance before the inspection or before the 30-day comment period has closed.

Information on EPA’s radioactive waste disposal standards (40 CFR Part 191), the compliance criteria (40 CFR Part 194), and EPA’s certification decision is filed in the official EPA Air Docket, Dockets No. R–89–01, A–92–56, and A–93–02, respectively, and is available for review in Washington DC, and at the three EPA WIPP informational docket locations in New Mexico. The docket in New Mexico contain only major items from the official Air Docket in Washington, DC, plus those documents added to the official Air Docket since the October 1992 enactment of the WIPP LWA.


Richard D. Wilson,
Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 98–13606 Filed 5–20–98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6712–01–P

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

48 CFR Part 1609
RIN 3206–AI27
Prohibition of “Gag Clauses” in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rule making.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is proposing to amend the regulations to prohibit health benefit carriers participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program from entering into contractual provisions with health care providers or health care workers that would include a provision for incentive payments as an inducement to reduce or limit communication with, or the delivery of health care services to, FEHB enrollees. The rule is intended to ensure providers’ and health care workers’ ability to communicate with, and advise patients of, any medically necessary treatment options.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 20, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be directed to Abby L. Block, Chief, Insurance Policy and Information Division, OPM, Room 3425, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20415–0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael W. Kaszynski, (202) 606–0004.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: You may submit comments and data by sending electronic mail (E-mail) to: MWKASZYN@OPM.Gov. On February 20, 1998, the President signed an Executive Memorandum directing the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to take the necessary steps to bring the FEHB Program into contractual compliance with the Consumer (Patient) Bill of Rights and Responsibilities by no later than year end 1999. The Memorandum specifically directed OPM to propose regulations within 90 days to prohibit practices that restrict physician-patient communications about medically necessary treatment options. This action will prohibit FEHB participating carriers...