use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comments and data will also be accepted on standard computer disks in WordPerfect 6.1/8.0 or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number OEI-100005. Electronic comments on this proposal may also be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

D. How Should I Handle CBI Information that I Want to Submit to the Agency?

You may claim information that you submit in response to this proposal as CBI by marking any part or all of that information as CBI. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2. A copy of the comment that does not contain CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public record. Information not marked confidential will be included in the public docket by EPA without prior notice. If you have any questions about CBI or the procedures for claiming CBI, please consult with the technical person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

II. Background

The purpose of the meeting is to work with a small group of stakeholders to solicit input on the types of information that EPA can provide to help users better understand the Toxics Release Inventory data. One goal in particular is to identify ways that EPA can help users of the data understand the different factors to consider when using the TRI data. To achieve this goal, EPA is interested in identifying documents and/or tools that the Agency can develop to assist a variety of data users in understanding and using the TRI data. In the past there have been issues raised with regard to the definition of ''release,'' particularly with respect to Class I underground injection wells and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle C landfills. Some stakeholders believe that the way EPA provides the data to the public leads to an erroneous perception that a reported EPCRA section 313 ''release'' necessarily results in an actual exposure of people or the environment to a toxic chemical. EPA is interested in obtaining ideas from stakeholders on documents and/or tools needed to assist data users in understanding the context of all types of toxic chemical releases reported under EPCRA section 313.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 372

Environmental protection, Chemicals, Community right-to-know, Hazardous substances, Intergovernmental relations, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Superfund, Toxic chemicals.

Dated: December 20, 2000.

Elaine G. Stanley, Director

Office of Information Analysis and Access.

[FR Doc. 01–118 File 1–2–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–6928–1]

Notice of Availability: Draft Guidance on Implementing the Water Quality-Based Provisions in the Combined Sewer Overflow Control Policy

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; availability of draft guidance.

SUMMARY: This document announces that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is publishing Draft Guidance On Implementing The Water Quality-Based Provisions in the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Policy. The guidance is designed to address questions raised since the publication of the CSO Control Policy in 1994 on integrating the long-term control plan (LTCP) development process with the water quality standards review. As outlined in the guidance, EPA will continue to implement the CSO Control Policy through its existing statutory and regulatory authorities. The guidance cannot impose legally binding requirements on EPA, States, Tribes, or the regulated community. It cannot substitute for Clean Water Act (CWA) requirements, EPA's regulations, or the obligations imposed by consent decrees or enforcement orders.

DATES: Public Comments: All public comments on the draft guidance must be received on or before March 5, 2001. All comments should be submitted in writing to the address listed below.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Timothy Dwyer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, ICC Building (MC 4203M), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460. Commenters are also requested to submit an original and 3 copies of their written comments as well as an original and 3 copies of any attachments, enclosures, or other documents referenced in the comments.

EPA will also accept comments electronically. Comments should be addressed to the following e-mail address: dwyer.tim@epa.gov. Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII, WordPerfect 5.1/6.1/8 format file and avoid the use of special characters or any form of encryption.

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the guidance from the Office of Wastewater Management's website (*http://www.epa.gov/owm/cso.htm*) or by contacting the Office of Water Resources Center at 202–260–7786 (e-mail: *center.water-resource@epa.gov*); mailing address is: Office of Water Resources Center, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, RC–4100, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460. Please request, ''Draft Guidance on Implementing the Water Quality-Based Provisions in the Combined Sewer Overflow Control Policy'' (EPA Number 833-D–00–002; December 2000).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Timothy Dwyer, Office of Wastewater Management, Water Permits Division, MC 4203M, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460, Telephone: 202–564–0717.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA issued the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Policy in April 1994 (59 FR 18688). To date, EPA has released seven guidance documents and worked with stakeholders to foster implementation of the Policy. The CSO Control Policy calls for the development of a long-term control plan (LTCP), which includes measures that provide for compliance with the Clean Water Act including attainment of water quality standards. The CSO Control Policy provides that the LTCP should be coordinated with the review and revision, as appropriate, of water quality standards and implementation procedures on CSO-impacted receiving waters. This process is intended to ensure that the long-term controls will be sufficient to meet water quality standards (59 FR 18694).

As part of EPA's FY 1999 Appropriation, Congress directed EPA to develop guidance on the conduct of water quality standards and designated use reviews for CSO-receiving waters, and urged EPA to provide technical and financial assistance to States and EPA Regions to conduct these reviews. In response, EPA hosted three stakeholder listening sessions in the Spring of 1999 and an experts workshop on September 24, 1999. The purpose of these meetings was to obtain participants' views on the impediments to implementing the water quality-based provisions in the CSO Control Policy. The guidance addresses many of the stakeholders' concerns, and recommends actions that EPA, State and Interstate Water Pollution Control

Directors, and CSO communities can take to address their concerns.

The objective of this guidance is to lay a strong foundation for integrating CSO long-term control planning with water quality standards reviews. Reaching early agreement among CSO communities, States, EPA, and the public on the data to be collected and the analyses to be conducted to support the long-term control plan development and water quality standards reviews can facilitate the review of water quality standards and the reconciliation of water quality standards with an affordable, well-designed and operated CSO control programs.

The guidance describes the process for integrating LTCP development and implementation with the water quality standards review. This process is the centerpiece of EPA's renewed commitment to assure that both communities with combined sewer systems and States participate in implementing the water quality-based provisions in the CSO Control Policy. The CSO Control Policy anticipates the ''review and revision, as appropriate, of water quality standards and their implementation procedures when developing CSO control plans to reflect site-specific impacts of CSOs.'' Integrating CSO long-term control planning with water quality standards reviews requires extensive coordination among CSO communities, States, EPA, and the public. Although this coordination is an intensive iterative process, it provides greater assurance that CSO communities will implement affordable CSO control programs that support the attainment of appropriate water quality standards.

Dated: December 20, 2000.

J. Charles Fox,

Assistant Administrator for Water.

[FR Doc. 01–113 Filed 1–2–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–6928–8]

Draft Guidance for National Hazardous Waste Ombudsman and Regional Superfund Ombudsmen Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of available draft guidance with request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed and is requesting comment on the ''Draft Guidance for National Hazardous Waste Ombudsman and Regional Superfund Ombudsmen Program.'' The Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) National Hazardous Waste and Superfund Ombudsman (National Ombudsman) and the Regional Superfund Ombudsmen (Regional Ombudsmen) were established to provide help to the public in resolving issues and concerns raised about the solid and hazardous waste programs administered by OSWER.

The purpose of this draft guidance is to explain the role of the Ombudsmen, their scope of activity, and the guidelines under which they coordinate and carry out their responsibilities. EPA believes this draft guidance will improve the effectiveness of this program by giving the Ombudsmen and those who may contact them a clear and consistent set of operating policies and expectations.

DATES: To make sure we consider your comments we must receive them by March 5, 2001. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent feasible; however, EPA will not delay finalizing the guidance to accommodate late comments.

ADDRESSES: You may request copies of the ''Draft Guidance for National Hazardous Waste Ombudsman and Regional Superfund Ombudsmen Program'' by any of the following ways:

Mail: write to: Docket Coordinator, Headquarters, U.S. EPA, CERCLA Docket Office, (Mail Code 5201G), Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20460.

Phone: call: (703) 603–9232, or (800) 424–9346.

Internet: http://www.epa.gov/swerrims/whatsnew.htm

If you wish to send us comments on the guidance, you must send them in any one of the following ways:

Mail: Docket Coordinator, Headquarters, U.S. EPA, CERCLA Docket Office, (Mail Code 5201G), Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20460.

Express Mail or courier (such as Federal Express, other overnight delivery, or courier): Docket Coordinator, Headquarters, U.S. EPA, CERCLA Docket Office, 1235 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal Gateway #1, First Floor, Arlington, Virginia, 22202.

E-mail: in ASCII format only to: *superfund.docket@epa.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caroline Previ, phone number (202) 260–2593, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (Mail Code 5101), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460, or the Superfund Hotline, phone number (800) 424–9346 or (703) 412–9810 in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

The program managers and staff in the Regions and at Headquarters are committed to implementing the federal solid waste and hazardous waste statutes managed by EPA, being responsive to the public, and resolving issues and concerns brought to their attention. In some cases, the individual or group raising a given concern does not believe the official problem solving channels dealt fairly or fully with their situation. In such cases, the individual or group may request assistance from the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) Ombudsman, an Agency official designated to receive inquiries and complaints about the administration of OSWER programs. The National and Regional Ombudsmen receive many calls for assistance each year—ranging from routine questions about hazardous waste laws to specific complaints about allegedly improper activities conducted at a site or facility.

Today's **Federal Register** notice introduces a policy entitled ''Draft Guidance for National Hazardous Waste Ombudsman and Regional Superfund Ombudsmen Program'' which explains the role and conduct of the OSWER National Ombudsman and the Regional Superfund Ombudsmen, scope of their activity, and the guidelines under which they coordinate and carry out their responsibilities. The main objective in issuing this guidance is to improve the effectiveness of this program by giving the Ombudsmen and those who may contact them a clear and consistent set of operating policies and expectations. This draft guidance would cover only the Ombudsmen who work on OSWER related issues, and staff who supply primary support or assistance to the Ombudsmen.

This guidance, when finalized, is not intended to be, and should not be construed as a rule. Use of the guidance would not be legally binding on EPA managers or staff or on other parties. EPA is seeking public comment at this time to ensure hearing the widest range of views and obtaining all information relevant to the development of the guidance.

II. Background

The hazardous and solid waste management laws passed by Congress created some of the most complex programs administered by EPA and the