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 In this letter, CARB acknowledged that the previously approved budgets had become outdated and made clear its intention to update these budgets as part of a comprehensive update to the plans.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.

[FR Doc. 03–7815 Filed 3–31–03; 8:45 am]

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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.* 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

Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) can be found on our website *(http://www.epa.gov/ocem).*

Meeting Access

Individuals requiring special accommodation at this meeting, including wheelchair access to the conference room, should contact Ms. Whitt at least five business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Dated: March 24, 2003.

Gwen Whitt,

Designated Federal Officer.

[FR Doc. 03–7798 Filed 3–31–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–7475–4]

New Jersey State Prohibition on Marine Discharges of Vessel Sewage; Receipt of Petition and Tentative Determination

Notice is hereby given that a petition dated March 27, 2002 was received from the State of New Jersey requesting a determination by the Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), pursuant to section 312(f) of Public Law 92–500, as amended by Public Law 95–217 and Public Law 100–4 (the Clean Water Act), that adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels are reasonably available for the waters of the Barnegat Bay, Ocean County, New Jersey. This petition was made by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) in cooperation with the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program, New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium, Ocean County Planning Board and Ocean County Vacation and Technical School. Upon receipt of an affirmative determination in response to this petition, NJDEP would completely prohibit the discharge of sewage, whether treated or not, from any vessel in the Barnegat Bay Complex in accordance with section 312(f)(3) of the Clean Water Act and 40 CFR 140.4(a).

Barnegat Bay is a shallow, lagoon-type estuary characteristic of a back bay system of a barrier island coastline. Barnegat Bay is bordered by two barrier islands, Island Beach and Long Beach Island. These islands are approximately 64 km in total length, are oriented north-south and separate the bay from the Atlantic Ocean. The No Discharge Zone (NDZ) will include Barnegat Bay Complex and its navigable tributaries. The boundary lines have been defined for the Point Pleasant Canal, Barnegat Inlet and Egg Harbor Inlet as lines between the following points:

Point Pleasant Canal—
40 04.030 N, 74 03.281 W;
40 04.068 N, 74 03.278 W

Barnegat Inlet—
Inside South Bouy, 39 45.457 N, 74 05.519 W;
Inside North Bouy, 39 45.525 N, 74 05.519 W

Egg Harbor Inlet—
39 30.521 N, 74 18.389 W;
39 30.476 N, 74 17.322 W

Barnegat Bay provides recreational, economic, and aesthetic benefits to the coastal users of New Jersey. The estuary is productive for shellfish harvesting, recreational activities such as fishing, kayaking, swimming and boating. The bay supports hard clam harvest and blue crab landings. NJDEP Bureau of Marine Water Classification and Analysis has divided the State into 36 Shellfish growing water reaches. The bay complex is identified as Reaches 7 through 13 which are as follows:

Reach 7—Barnegat Bay (Bay Head to Seaweed Point)
Reach 8—Barnegat Bay (Seaweed Point to Mathis Bridge)
Reach 9—Toms River
Reach 10—Barnegat Bay (Mathis Bridge to Forked River)
Reach 11—Barnegat Bay (Forked River to Main Point)
Reach 12—Manahawkin/Little Egg Harbor Bay (Main Point to Long Point)
Reach 13—Long Point to Beach Haven Inlet

Information submitted by the State of New Jersey indicate that there are sixty-six existing pumpout facilities and two pumpout boats available to service vessels throughout the Barnegat Bay Complex. The typical facility is available to the boating community from April through November with hours of operation from 8 am until 5 pm, seven days a week. Seven facilities are available all year. Sixty-three of the existing pumpout facilities are connected to municipal sewage lines. Sewage from these facilities is routed to the Ocean County Municipal Utilities Authority where it undergoes secondary treatment. Three pumpout facilities (Ocean Gate Yacht Basin, Ocean Beach South and Causeway Boat Rental and Marina) store their waste in holding tanks for disposal by a septic waste hauler.

According to the State's petition, the vessel population for the waters of Barnegat Bay Complex is approximately 15,587 vessels which are docked at private residences and 12,900 vessels docked or moored at marinas or yacht clubs. The total vessel population is 28,487. The ratio of boats to pumpout facilities has been based on the total number of vessels which could be expected. With sixty-six shore-side pumpout facilities and two pumpout vessel available to boaters, the ratio of docked or moored boats (including transients) is approximately 420 vessels per pumpout. Standard guidelines refer to acceptable ratios falling in the range of 300 to 600 vessels per pumpout. If the EPA calculation is employed (as listed in the guidance manual entitled, ''Protecting Coastal Waters from Vessel and Marina Discharges: A Guide for State and Local Officials—April 1994''), it estimates that twenty-four pumpouts are needed to provide adequate facilities.

Commercial vessels which operate in and around the harbor are engaged in fishing activities exclusively. Most of the operators will use the facilities where they dock or obtain fuel. The larger fishing vessels do not operate in the bay, but dock in the vicinity of Barnegat Light and fish the Atlantic Ocean.

The EPA hereby makes a tentative affirmative determination that adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels are reasonably available for the Barnegat Bay Complex in Ocean County, New Jersey. A final determination on this matter will be made following the 30-day period for public comment regarding a New Jersey State prohibition of any sewage discharges from marine vessels in the Barnegat Bay Complex.

Comments and views regarding this petition and EPA's tentative determination may be filed on or before May 1, 2003. Comments or requests for information or copies of the applicant's petition should be addressed to Walter E. Andrews, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2, Water Programs Branch, 290 Broadway, 24th Floor, New York, New York 10007–1866. Telephone: (212) 637–3880.

Dated: March 14, 2003.

William J. Muszynski,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 2.

[FR Doc. 03–7799 Filed 3–31–03; 8:45 am]

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