empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting will be available for public review and copying within 60 days on the STEAB Web site, *http://www.steab.org.*

Issued at Washington, DC, on December 24, 2009.

Rachel Samuel,

Deputy Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. E9–30958 Filed 12–29–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Paducah

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Paducah. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92–463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of this meeting be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Thursday, January 21, 2010, 6 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Barkley Centre, 111 Memorial Drive, Paducah, Kentucky 42001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Reinhard Knerr, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, Department of Energy Paducah Site Office, Post Office Box 1410, MS–103, Paducah, Kentucky 42001, (270) 441–6825.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Board: The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE–EM in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management and related activities.

Tentative Agenda

- Call to Order, Introductions, Review of Agenda
- Deputy Designated Federal Officer's Comments
- Federal Coordinator's Comments
- Liaisons' Comments
- Committee Chairs' Comments
- Presentations
  - Understanding Risk—Rich Bonczek, DOE
- Administrative Issues
  - New Business and Recommendations
- Public Comments
- Final Comments
- Adjourn

Breaks Taken As Appropriate

Public Participation: The EM SSAB, Paducah, welcomes the attendance of the public at its advisory committee meetings and will make every effort to accommodate persons with physical disabilities or special needs. If you require special accommodations due to a disability, please contact Reinhard Knerr at least seven days in advance of the meeting at the telephone number listed above. Written statements may be filed with the Board either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Reinhard Knerr at the address or telephone number listed above. Requests must be received five days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Individuals wishing to make public comments will be provided a maximum of five minutes to present their comments.

Minutes: Minutes will be available by writing or calling Reinhard Knerr at the address and phone number listed above. Minutes will also be available at the following Web site: *http://www.pgdpcab.org/meetings.html.*

Issued at Washington, DC on December 24, 2009.

Rachel Samuel,

Deputy Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. E9–30961 Filed 12–29–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee. Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Thursday, January 28, 2010, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, January 29, 2010, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Sustainable Education Building, Room SEB#122, Georgia Institute of Technology, 790 Atlantic Drive, Atlanta, GA 30332–0355.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edith Allison, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Oil and Natural Gas, Washington, DC 20585. Phone: 202–586–1023.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Committee: The purpose of the Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee is to provide advice on potential applications of methane hydrate to the Secretary of Energy, and assist in developing recommendations and priorities for the Department of Energy Methane Hydrate Research and Development Program.

Tentative Agenda

Thursday, January 28, 2010

8:30 a.m. Registration
9 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
9:15 a.m. Report from Representative Group of Committee Members on meeting with Secretary Chu
9:45 a.m. Report on DOE Budget and Strategy for Field Testing
10:15 a.m. Break
10:30 a.m. Report and Discussion of Gulf of Mexico Joint Industry Project 2009 Expedition
11:30 a.m. Report and Discussion of ConocoPhillips Alaska North Slope CO_2 Injection Project
12:30 p.m. Working Lunch
1:45 p.m. Status Report on BP Alaska North Slope Proposed Production Test
2:15 p.m. Report and Discussion: Modeling Hydrate in the Global Climate Cycle
3 p.m. Break
3:30 p.m. Report on Post-Doctoral Fellowship and Laboratory R&D
4 p.m. Report on Beaufort Sea 2009 Expedition
4:30 p.m. Report on Gas Production from Hydrate Bearing Sediments: Geomechanical Implications
5 p.m. Adjourn for the day

Friday, January 29, 2010

8 a.m. Registration
8:30 a.m. Report and Discussion on National Research Council (NRC) Assessment and 2010 Report to Congress
10 a.m. Break
10:15 a.m. Continue Discussion of NRC Report
11 a.m. Discussion and Preparation of Recommendations to DOE
12 p.m. Working Lunch
1 p.m. Continue Preparation of Recommendations to DOE
3 p.m. Wrap up—Adjourn

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public. The Chairman of the Committee will conduct the meeting to facilitate the orderly conduct of business. If you would like to file a written statement with the Committee, you may do so either before or after the meeting. If you would like to make oral statements regarding any of the items on

the agenda, you should contact Edith Allison at the address or telephone number listed above. You must make your request for an oral statement at least five business days prior to the meeting, and reasonable provisions will be made to include the presentation on the agenda. Public comment will follow the 10 minute rule.

Minutes: The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying within 60 days at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, Room 1G–033, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Issued at Washington, DC, on December 23, 2009.

Rachel Samuel,

Deputy Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. E9–30959 Filed 12–29–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–9097–8; OW–2009–0921]

Draft 2009 Update Aquatic Life Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Ammonia—Freshwater

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability of draft criteria and request for scientific views.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 304(a) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the availability of draft national recommended water quality criteria for ammonia for the protection of aquatic life. The draft criteria are based on EPA's *Guidelines for Deriving Numerical National Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Organisms and Their Uses (1985), (EPA/R–85–100).* EPA's recommended section 304(a) water quality criteria provide guidance to States and authorized tribes in adopting water quality standards for protecting aquatic life and human health and provide guidance to EPA for promulgating Federal regulations under CWA section 303(c), when such action is necessary.

DATES: Scientific views must be received on or before March 1, 2010. Comments postmarked after this date may not be considered.

ADDRESSES: Submit your scientific views, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OW–2009- 0921, by one of the following methods:

- *http://www.regulations.gov:* Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
- *E-mail: OW-Docket@epa.gov.*
- *Mail:* U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC) Water Docket, MC 28221T; 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460.
- *Hand Delivery:* EPA Docket Center, 1301 Constitution Ave, NW., EPA West, Room 3334, Washington DC. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

Instructions: Direct your comments to Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OW–2009–0921. EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change and may be made available online at *http://www.regulations.gov,* including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected through *http://www.regulations.gov* or e-mail. The *http://www.regulations.gov* Web site is an ''anonymous access'' system, which means EPA will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. If you send an e-mail comment directly to EPA without going through *http://www.regulations.gov* your e-mail address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available on the Internet. If you submit an electronic comment, EPA recommends that you include your name and other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD–ROM you submit. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment. Electronic files should avoid the use of special characters, any form of encryption, and be free of any defects or viruses. For additional information about EPA's public docket visit the EPA Docket Center homepage at *http://www.epa.gov/epahome/dockets.htm.*

Docket: All documents in the docket are listed in the *http://www.regulations.gov* index. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, *e.g.,* CBI or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, will be publicly available only in hard copy. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically in *http://www.regulations.gov* or in hard copy at the Office of Water Docket/EPA/DC, 1301 Constitution Ave, NW., EPA West, Room 3334, Washington DC. This Docket Facility is open from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., EST, Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566–1744, and the telephone number for the Office of Water Docket is (202) 566–2426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa Huff, Health and Ecological Criteria Division (4304T), U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; (202) 566–0787; *huff.lisa@epa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. What Are Water Quality Criteria?

Water quality criteria are either narrative descriptions of water quality or scientifically derived numeric values that protect aquatic life or human health from the deleterious effects of pollutants in ambient water.

Section 304(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act requires EPA to develop and publish and, from time to time, revise, criteria for water quality accurately reflecting the latest scientific knowledge. Water quality criteria developed under section 304(a) are based solely on data and scientific judgments on the relationship between pollutant concentrations and environmental and human health effects. Section 304(a) criteria do not reflect consideration of economic impacts or the technological feasibility of meeting pollutant concentrations in ambient water.

Section 304(a) criteria provide guidance to States and authorized tribes in adopting water quality standards that ultimately provide a basis for controlling discharges or releases of pollutants. The criteria also provide guidance to EPA when promulgating Federal regulations under section 303(c) when such action is necessary. Under the CWA and its implementing regulations, States and authorized tribes are to adopt water quality criteria to protect designated uses (*e.g.,* public water supply, aquatic life, recreational use, or industrial use). EPA's recommended water quality criteria do not substitute for the CWA or regulations, nor are they regulations themselves. Thus, EPA's recommended criteria do not impose legally binding requirements. States and authorized tribes have the discretion to adopt, where appropriate, other scientifically