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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6500-3]

Regulatory Reinvention (XL) Pilot Projects

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability of Albuquerque Pretreatment Project XL
Draft Final Project Agreement.

SUMMARY: EPA is today requesting comments on a draft Project XL Final Project Agreement (FPA) for the City of Albuquerque. The FPA is a voluntary agreement developed collaboratively by Albuquerque, stakeholders, the State of New Mexico, and EPA. Project XL, announced in the Federal Register on May 23, 1995 (60 FR 27282), gives regulated sources the flexibility to develop alternative strategies that will replace or modify specific regulatory requirements on the condition that they produce greater environmental benefits.

If implemented, the draft FPA and a site specific rulemaking would allow Albuquerque to conduct pollution prevention outreach and implementation at up to 50 new businesses per year, and integrate stormwater pollution prevention aspects with its pretreatment program. Albuquerque would attempt to initially reduce loadings of 13 pollutants of concern, and optimize resources to achieve competitive institutional integration of pollution prevention and pretreatment program work. Albuquerque would start the project by conducting sewer sub-basin monitoring to determine where 13 pollutants predominate within the collection system. Through this approach, Albuquerque will focus its efforts to identify and address the most significant industrial,

commercial, and residential areas, or conduct project outreach. Albuquerque also proposes to conduct workshops and case studies demonstrating implementation of best management practices (BMPs) for pretreatment dischargers, problem areas, and follow-up needs. One way Albuquerque will demonstrate greater environmental benefit is by monitoring pollutant loadings before and after its pollution prevention outreach and implementation efforts. One of Albuquerque's initial goals would be to try to reduce aluminum, cadmium, chromium, copper, cyanide, fluoride, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, silver, and zinc by 10-25%. The site specific rulemaking setting forth the specific regulatory flexibility to be implemented will be developed with the assistance of stakeholders and will ensure that the project will fully comply with applicable federal requirements under the Clean Water Act.

DATES: The period for submission of comments ends on December 27, 1999.

ADDRESSES: All comments on the draft Final Project Agreement should be sent to: Adele Cardenas, 6EN-XP, U.S. EPA REGION 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite # 1200, Dallas, TX 75202-2733, or Chad Carbone, U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Room 1027WT (1802), Washington, DC 20460. Comments may also be faxed to Ms. Cardenas at (214) 665-3177 or Mr. Carbone at (202) 401-2474. Comments will also be received via electronic mail sent to: cardenas.adele@epa.gov or carbone.chad@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To obtain a copy of the draft Final Project Agreement, contact: Adele Cardenas, 6EN-XP, U.S. EPA REGION 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite # 1200, Dallas, TX 75202-2733, or Chad Carbone, U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Room 1027WT (1802), Washington, DC 20460. The documents are also available via the Internet at the following location: <http://www.epa.gov/ProjectXL>. In addition, public files on the Project are located at EPA Region 6 in Dallas. Questions to EPA regarding the documents can be directed to Adele Cardenas at (214) 665-7210 or Chad Carbone at (202) 260-4296. Additional information on Project XL, including documents referenced in this notice, other EPA policy documents related to Project XL, application information, and descriptions of existing XL projects and proposals, is available via the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/ProjectXL>.

Dated: November 23, 1999.

Lisa Lund,
Deputy Associate Administrator, for Reinvention Programs, Office of Reinvention.

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