

peer-review charge are available primarily via the Internet on NCEA's home page under the Recent Additions and Publications menus at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea>. In preparing a final report, EPA will consider ERG's report of the comments and recommendations from the external peer-review workshop and any public comments that EPA receives.

**DATES:** The peer-review panel workshop will begin on Wednesday, January 27, 2010, at 8:30 a.m., and will end at approximately 4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

**ADDRESSES:** The peer-review workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn Capitol, 550 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024. The EPA contractor, ERG, is organizing, convening, and conducting the peer-review workshop. To attend the workshop, register by Wednesday, January 20, 2010, by calling ERG at 781-674-7374 or toll free at 800-803-2833 (ask for the 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane peer-review coordinator, Laurie Waite), sending a facsimile to 781-674-2906 (please reference: "1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane peer-review workshop" and include your name, title, affiliation, full address, and contact information), or sending an e-mail to [meetings@erg.com](mailto:meetings@erg.com) (subject line: "1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane peer-review workshop" and include your name, title, affiliation, full address, and contact information). You may also register via the Internet at <https://www2.ergweb.com/projects/conferences/peerreview/register-tetraforumworkshop.htm>.

The draft "Toxicological Review of 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane: In Support of Summary Information on the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS)" is available primarily via the Internet on the National Center for Environmental Assessment's home page under the Recent Additions and Publications menus at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea>. A limited number of paper copies are available from the Information Management Team, NCEA; telephone: 703-347-8561; facsimile: 703-347-8691. If you are requesting a paper copy, please provide your name, mailing address, and the document title, "Toxicological Review of 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane: In Support of Summary Information on the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS)." Copies are not available from ERG.

*Information on Services for Individuals with Disabilities:* EPA welcomes public attendance at the "1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane peer-review workshop" and will make every effort to accommodate persons with disabilities.

For information on access or services for individuals with disabilities, please contact ERG, 110 Hartwell Avenue, Lexington, MA 02421-3136; telephone: 781-674-7374; facsimile: 781-674-2906; or e-mail: [meetings@erg.com](mailto:meetings@erg.com) (subject line: 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane peer-review workshop), preferably at least 10 days prior to the meeting, to give as much time as possible to process your request.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Questions regarding information, registration, access or services for individuals with disabilities, or logistics for the external peer-review workshop should be directed to ERG, 110 Hartwell Avenue, Lexington, MA 02421-3136; telephone: 781-674-7374; facsimile: 781-674-2906; or e-mail: [meetings@erg.com](mailto:meetings@erg.com) (subject line: 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane peer-review workshop).

If you have questions about the document, please contact Martin Gehlhaus, National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW., 8601P, Washington, DC 20460; telephone: 703-347-8579; facsimile: 703-347-8689; or e-mail: [gehlhaus.martin@epa.gov](mailto:gehlhaus.martin@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Information About IRIS**

IRIS is a database that contains potential adverse human health effects information that may result from chronic (or lifetime) exposure to specific chemical substances found in the environment. The database (available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/iris>) contains qualitative and quantitative health effects information for more than 540 chemical substances that may be used to support the first two steps (hazard identification and dose-response evaluation) of a risk assessment process. When supported by available data, the database provides oral reference doses (RfDs) and inhalation reference concentrations (RfCs) for chronic health effects, and oral slope factors and inhalation unit risks for carcinogenic effects. Combined with specific exposure information, government and private entities can use IRIS data to help characterize public health risks of chemical substances in a site-specific situation and thereby support risk management decisions designed to protect public health.

Dated: December 8, 2009.

**Rebecca Clark,**

*Acting Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.*

[FR Doc. E9-30043 Filed 12-16-09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-9093-4]

**Notice of a Project Waiver of Section 1605 (Buy American Requirement) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to the Town of Taos, NM**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Regional Administrator of EPA Region 6 is hereby granting a project waiver of the Buy American requirements of ARRA Section 1605 under the authority of Section 1605(b)(2) [manufactured goods are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality] to the Town of Taos ("Taos") for the purchase of membrane filtrations cassettes, which are an integral component of the Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) system, proposed for the expansion of its existing Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Taos indicates that the MBR system is necessary to achieve the tertiary wastewater treatment levels at the proposed 4 million gallons per day WWTP. The membrane filtration equipment under consideration is manufactured by a company located in Canada and no United States manufacturer produces an alternative that meets Taos' technical specifications. This is a project specific waiver and only applies to the use of the specified product for the ARRA funded project being proposed. Any other ARRA project that may wish to use the same product must apply for a separate waiver based on the specific project circumstances. The Regional Administrator is making this determination based on the review and recommendations of the EPA Region 6, Water Quality Protection Division. Taos has provided sufficient documentation to support its request.

The Assistant Administrator of the EPA's Office of Administration and Resources Management has concurred on this decision to make an exception to Section 1605 of ARRA. This action permits the purchase of MBR system containing goods not manufactured in America, for the proposed project being implemented by Taos. It should be noted that for purposes of this action, the MBR system, while treated as a single system, is not itself a manufactured good, but is an assembly of manufactured goods.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* December 9, 2009.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Rajen Patel, Buy American Coordinator, (214) 665-2788, SRF & Projects Section, Water Quality Protection Division, U.S. EPA Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

In accordance with ARRA Section 1605(c), EPA hereby provides notice that it is granting a project waiver of the requirements of Section 1605(b)(2) of Public Law 111-5, Buy American requirements to Taos for the acquisition of a GE/Zenon Zeeweed 500D MBR system's (MBR system) membrane filtration cassettes, manufactured by GE Water and Process Technologies, Canada. Taos has been unable to find an American made membrane filtration cassette manufacturer to meet its specific wastewater requirements.

Section 1605 of the ARRA requires that none of the appropriated funds may be used for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public building or public work unless all of the iron, steel, and manufactured goods used in the project are produced in the United States unless a waiver is provided to the recipient by EPA. A waiver may be provided if EPA determines that (1) Applying these requirements would be inconsistent with public interest; (2) iron, steel, and the relevant manufactured goods are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or (3) inclusion of iron, steel, and the relevant manufactured goods produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

Taos' waiver request is to allow the purchase of sixteen membrane filtration cassettes for use in improvements to its existing WWTP in Taos, New Mexico. This project will replace its existing secondary wastewater treatment processes with a new MBR system to meet the effluent requirements of the NPDES permit. The membrane filtration cassette is an integral component of the MBR system because it separates the treated wastewater from the mixed liquor which comes from the biological reactors, before the treated wastewater is disinfected and discharged. Taos chose the MBR system after an engineering analysis of treatment alternatives. Taos determined this to be the most environmentally sound and cost effective solution because it meets the strict NPDES tertiary treatment standards for Total Suspended Solids, Biological Oxygen Demand, and turbidity, when compared to other considered solutions. In addition, in

anticipation of procuring the MBR system, Taos has already incorporated specific technical design requirements for installation of membrane filter cassettes with the MBR system at its WWTP, including specific tank footprint, geometry and configuration.

Taos has provided information to the EPA demonstrating that there are no membrane filtration cassettes manufactured in the United States in sufficient and reasonable quantity and of a satisfactory quality to meet the required technical specification. Six companies were considered for the membrane filtration cassettes, none based in the United States. Taos has performed market research but was unsuccessful in its effort to locate any domestic manufacturers of membrane filtration cassettes for its WWTP.

Based on additional research conducted by EPA Region 6, there does not appear to be any domestic MBR cassette manufacturers that would meet Taos' technical specifications. EPA's national contractor prepared a technical assessment report dated November 19, 2009 based on the waiver request submittal. The report determined that the waiver request submittal was complete, that adequate technical information was provided, and that there were no significant weaknesses in the justification provided. The report confirmed the waiver applicant's claim that there are no American-made MBR cassettes available for use in the proposed MBR system. Taos included a performance guarantee in the request for proposal (RFP) as well as the original specification. GE's performance guarantee applies to the entire MBR system, including all components supplied by GE. The existence of the performance guarantee supports treating the entire MBR system as a unitary whole, rather than a collection of individual components. Therefore, EPA Region 6 concludes that the "GE/Zenon Zeeweed 500D MBR System—as a whole" meets the "specifications in project plans and design."

The April 28, 2009 EPA HQ Memorandum, Implementation of Buy American provisions of P.L. 111-5, the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009", defines reasonably available quantity as "the quantity of iron, steel, or relevant manufactured good is available or will be available at the time needed and place needed, and in the proper form or specification as specified in the project plans and design." Taos has incorporated specific technical design requirements for installation of membrane filtration cassettes at its WWTP.

The purpose of the ARRA is to stimulate economic recovery in part by funding current infrastructure construction, not to delay projects that are "shovel ready" by requiring utilities, such as Taos, to revise their standards and specifications, institute a new bidding process, and potentially choose a more costly, less efficient project. The imposition of ARRA Buy American requirements on such projects otherwise eligible for State Revolving Fund assistance would result in unreasonable delay and thus displace the "shovel ready" status for this project. To further delay construction is in direct conflict with a fundamental economic purpose of the ARRA, which is to create or retain jobs.

The Region 6 Water Quality Protection Division has reviewed this waiver request, and to the best of my knowledge at the time of review, has determined that the supporting documentation provided by Taos is sufficient to meet the criteria listed under ARRA, Section 1605(b), Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 2 CFR 176.60-176.170, and in the April 28, 2009, "Implementation of Buy American Provisions of Public Law 111-5, the 'American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009' Memorandum." Iron, steel, and the manufactured goods are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality. The basis for this project waiver is the authorization provided in ARRA, Section 1605(b)(2). Due to the lack of production of this product in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality in order to meet Taos' technical specifications, a waiver from the Buy American requirement is justified.

EPA headquarters' March 31, 2009 Delegation of Authority Memorandum provided Regional Administrators with the authority to issue exceptions to Section 1605 of ARRA within the geographic boundaries of their respective regions and with respect to requests by individual grant recipients. Having established both a proper basis to specify the particular good required for this project, and that this manufactured good was not available from a producer in the United States, Taos is hereby granted a waiver from the Buy American requirements of ARRA, Section 1605(a) of Public Law 111-5 for the purchase of "GE/Zenon Zeeweed 500D MBR system" using ARRA funds, as specified in Taos' request of October 23, 2009. This supplementary information constitutes the detailed written justification required by ARRA,

Section 1605(c), for waivers “based on a finding under subsection (b).”

**Authority:** Public Law 111–5, section 1605.

Dated: December 9, 2009.

**Al Armendariz,**

*Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6.*

[FR Doc. E9–30046 Filed 12–16–09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560–50–P**

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–9093–3]

### Proposed Consent Decree, Clean Air Act Citizen Suit

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed consent decree; request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 113(g) of the Clean Air Act, as amended (“CAA” or the “Act”), 42 U.S.C. 7413(g), notice is hereby given of a proposed consent decree to address a lawsuit filed by WildEarth Guardians and San Juan Citizens Alliance in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia: *WildEarth Guardians, et al. v. Jackson*, No. 1:09–CV–00089–CKK (D. D.C.). On January 14, 2009, Plaintiffs filed a complaint alleging that EPA failed to meet its obligations under sections 111(b)(1)(B), 112(d)(6) and 112(f)(2) of the Clean Air Act (“CAA”) to take actions relative to the review/revision of the New Source Performance Standards and the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants with respect to the Oil and Natural Gas production source category. The proposed consent decree establishes deadlines for EPA’s proposed and final actions for meeting these obligations.

**DATES:** Written comments on the proposed consent decree must be received January 19, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID number EPA–HQ–OGC–2009–0918, online at <http://www.regulations.gov> (EPA’s preferred method); by e-mail to [oei.docket@epa.gov](mailto:oei.docket@epa.gov); by mail to EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode: 2822T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460–0001; or by hand delivery or courier to EPA Docket Center, EPA West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. Comments on a disk or CD–ROM should be formatted in Word or

ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption, and may be mailed to the mailing address above.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Branning, Air and Radiation Law Office (2344A), Office of General Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone: (202) 564–1744; fax number (202) 564–5603; e-mail address: [branning.amy@epa.gov](mailto:branning.amy@epa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Additional Information About the Proposed Consent Decree

Under sections 111(b)(1)(B), 112(d)(6) and 112(f)(2) of the CAA, EPA has a mandatory duty to take actions relative to the review/revision of new source performance standards (“NSPS”) and national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants (“NESHAP”) within eight years of the issuance of the standards. The proposed consent decree would resolve a deadline suit filed by Plaintiffs for EPA’s failure to take the above actions within eight years of issuing NSPS and NESHAP for the Oil and Natural Gas production source category. The proposed Consent Decree requires that EPA sign by January 31, 2011 proposed standards and/or determinations not to issue standards pursuant to sections 111(b)(1)(B), 112(d)(6) and 112(f)(2), and that EPA finalize its proposals by November 30, 2011. The proposed Consent Decree authorizes EPA to sign by January 31, 2011 a final determination not to review the NSPS pursuant to section 111(b)(1)(B) without issuing a proposal for such determination. The approach of determining not to review is not available for actions under section 112. The proposed Consent Decree further requires that, within 15 business days following signature, EPA shall deliver a notice of such action to the Office of the Federal Register for prompt publication. The proposed consent decree states that, after EPA fulfills its obligations under the decree, the case shall be dismissed with prejudice.

For a period of thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this notice, the Agency will accept written comments relating to the proposed consent decree from persons who were not named as parties or intervenors to the litigation in question. EPA or the Department of Justice may withdraw or withhold consent to the proposed consent decree if the comments disclose facts or considerations that indicate that such consent is inappropriate, improper, inadequate, or inconsistent with the requirements of the Act. Unless

EPA or the Department of Justice determines, based on any comment submitted, that consent to this consent decree should be withdrawn, the terms of the decree will be affirmed.

##### II. Additional Information About Commenting on the Proposed Consent Decree

###### A. How Can I Get A Copy of the Consent Decree?

The official public docket for this action (identified by Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OGC–2009–0918) contains a copy of the proposed consent decree. The official public docket is available for public viewing at the Office of Environmental Information (OEI) Docket in the EPA Docket Center, EPA West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566–1744, and the telephone number for the OEI Docket is (202) 566–1752.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through <http://www.regulations.gov>. You may use <http://www.regulations.gov> to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Once in the system, key in the appropriate docket identification number then select “search”.

It is important to note that EPA’s policy is that public comments, whether submitted electronically or on paper, will be made available for public viewing online at <http://www.regulations.gov> without change, unless the comment contains copyrighted material, CBI, or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Information claimed as CBI and other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute is not included in the official public docket or in the electronic public docket. EPA’s policy is that copyrighted material, including copyrighted material contained in a public comment, will not be placed in EPA’s electronic public docket but will be available only in printed, paper form in the official public docket. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the EPA Docket Center.