

*subregional/reports.htm*: "Rocky Mountain Area Transmission Study"—September 2004.

3. Available on California Energy Commission Web site at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2005publications/CEC-100-2005-006/CEC-100-2005-006-CTF.PDF>: "Committee Final Strategic Transmission Investment Plan (Committee Final Strategic Plan), California Energy Commission, November 2005."

4. Available on the Public Service Company of Colorado Web site at <http://www.rmao.com/wtpp.pscostudies.html>: "Colorado Long Range Transmission Planning Study"—April 27, 2004.

5. Available from WECC (Phase 3 Accepted Path Rating Study Report)—Call (801) 582-0353: "Southwest Power link and Palo Verde—Devers 500kV Series Capacitor Upgrade Project"—dated December 2, 2004.

6. Available from CAISO Web site.  
6.1. CAISO testimony to the CPUC for the Palo Verde—Devers #2 Project <http://www.caiso.com/14cf/14cf82f921c90.pdf>.

6.2. Information on the Southwest Transmission Expansion Plan (STEP) <http://www.caiso.com/docs/2002/11/04/2002110417450022131.html>.

6.3. Documents on the Palo Verde—Devers #2 project <http://www.caiso.com/docs/2005/01/19/2005011914572217739.html>.

6.4. Information on the CAISO Transmission Economic Assessment Methodology (TEAM) <http://www.caiso.com/docs/2003/03/18/2003031815303519270.html>.

7. Available from Northwest Power Pool Web site (Northwest Regional Transmission Association reports).

7.1. "Puget Sound Area Upgrade Study Report"—November 2004 <http://www.nwpp.org/ntac/pdf/PSASG%20Final%20Draft.pdf>.

7.2. "Montana—Pacific Northwest Transmission Upgrade Study" <http://www.nwpp.org/ntac/pdf/MT-NW%20Study%20Report%202005-Oct.zip>.

7.3. <http://www.nwpp.org/ntac/pdf/Selected%20Transmission%20Siting%20constraints.pdf>.

8. Available from the Southwest Area Transmission Sub-Regional Planning Group Web site.

8.1. "Report of the Phase I Study of the Central Arizona Transmission System" <http://www.azpower.org/cats/default.asp#phase1>.

8.2. "Report of the Phase II Study of the Central Arizona Transmission System" <http://www.azpower.org/cats/default.asp#phase2>.

8.3. "Report of the Phase III Study of the Central Arizona Transmission System" <http://www.azpower.org/cats/default.asp#phase3>.

[FR Doc. E6-1394 Filed 2-1-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-8027-8]

### Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) Meeting Dates and Agenda

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice of teleconference meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB), as previously announced, will have teleconference meetings on January 18, 2006 at 1 p.m. E.T.; February 15, 2006 at 1 p.m. E.T.; March 15, 2006 at 1 p.m. E.T.; April 19, 2006 at 1 p.m. E.T.; and May 17, 2006 at 1 p.m. E.T. to discuss the ideas and views presented at the previous ELAB meetings, as well as new business. Items to be discussed by ELAB over these coming meetings include: (1) Expanding the number of laboratories seeking National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) accreditation; (2) homeland security issues affecting the laboratory community; (3) ELAB support to the Agency's Forum on Environmental Measurements (FEM); (4) implementing the performance approach; (5) increasing state participation in NELAC; and (6) follow-up on some of ELAB's past recommendations and issues. In addition to these teleconferences, ELAB will be hosting their next face-to-face meeting on January 30, 2006 at the Westin Chicago River North in Chicago, Illinois from 9:30-12 C.T. and an open forum session on January 31, 2006 also at the Westin Chicago River North in Chicago, Illinois at 5:30 p.m. C.T.

Written comments on laboratory accreditation issues and/or environmental monitoring issues are encouraged and should be sent to Ms. Lara P. Autry, DFO, U.S. EPA (E243-05), 109 T. W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, faxed to (919) 541-4261, or e-mailed to [autry.lara@epa.gov](mailto:autry.lara@epa.gov). Members of the public are invited to listen to the teleconference calls, and time permitting, will be allowed to comment on issues discussed during this and previous ELAB meetings. Those persons interested in attending should call Lara P. Autry at (919) 541-5544 to obtain teleconference information. The number of lines for the teleconferences, however, are limited and will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis. Preference will be given to a group wishing to attend over a request from an individual. For information on

access or services for individuals with disabilities, please contact Lara P. Autry at the number above. To request accommodation of a disability, please contact Lara P. Autry, preferably at least 10 days prior to the meeting, to give EPA as much time as possible to process your request.

**George M. Gray,**

*Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development.*

[FR Doc. E6-1422 Filed 2-1-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-8026-5]

### Position Statement on Environmental Management Systems (EMSs)

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** This notice is to inform the public that EPA has updated its Position Statement on Environmental Management Systems (EMSs). This updated statement replaces the 2002 Position Statement on EMS signed by Administrator Whitman and reflects EPA's experiences to date with the promotion of voluntary EMSs as well as our continued commitment to be a leader in this area. The Position Statement explains EPA's policy on EMSs and the Agency's intent to continue to promote the voluntary widespread use of EMSs across a range of organizations and settings. EPA encourages organizations to implement EMSs that result in improved environmental performance and compliance, cost-savings, pollution prevention through source reduction, and continual improvement.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Shana Harbour 202-566-2959.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

During the past decade, public and private organizations have increasingly adopted formal Environmental Management Systems (EMSs) to address their environmental responsibilities. The most common framework an EMS uses is the plan-do-check-act process, with the goal of continual improvement. EMSs provide organizations of all types with a structured system and approach for managing environmental and regulatory responsibilities to improve overall environmental performance and stewardship, including areas not subject to regulation such as product design,

resource conservation, energy efficiency, and other sustainable practices. EMSs can also facilitate the integration of the full scope of environmental considerations into the mission of the organization and improve environmental performance by establishing a continual process of checking to ensure environmental goals are set and met. A well-designed EMS includes procedures for taking corrective action if problems occur and encourages preventive action to avoid problems.

Over the last several years, EPA has been involved in a wide range of voluntary activities to facilitate EMS adoption (see <http://www.epa.gov/ems>). EPA has learned through our work with other organizations that EMSs can improve organizational efficiency and competitiveness, provide an infrastructure for public communication and engagement, and provide a platform to address other important issues such as security. EMSs do not replace the need for regulatory and enforcement programs, but they can complement them. Although EMSs cannot guarantee any specific level of environmental performance, EPA has learned that, when properly implemented, EMSs can help facilities achieve significantly improved environmental results and other benefits.

#### Using EMS as a Tool for Stewardship

EPA has developed EMSs at 34 of its own facilities in advance of the December 31, 2005 deadline set forth in Executive Order 13148—Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management. EPA will continue to utilize its EMSs to reduce its environmental footprint and to help lead the Agency's environmental stewardship efforts.

EPA will continue to encourage organizations to design and implement EMSs that improve compliance, prevent pollution, and integrate other means of improving environmental performance. EPA is also leading research designed to evaluate the effectiveness of EMSs in various settings and integrating EMSs into more of its own programs. We are evaluating which EMS elements and applications are most effective and how these management systems might be used to strengthen environmental programs and policies. This includes the ongoing efforts to assess the potential financial benefits of EMS adoption and to assess whether EMSs should play any role in the design of regulatory and permitting programs.

#### Statement of Principles

EPA's overall policy on EMSs, as with the EMS approach itself, will continue to be guided by the principles of continual improvement and learning, flexibility, and collaboration.

- EPA will encourage widespread use of EMSs across a range of organizations and settings, with particular emphasis on adoption of EMSs to achieve improved environmental performance and compliance, pollution prevention through source reduction, and continual improvement. The Agency will support EMSs that are appropriate to the needs and characteristics of specific sectors and facilities and encourage the use of EMSs as a means of integrating other facility management programs.

- EPA will promote the voluntary adoption of EMSs. To encourage voluntary adoption of EMSs, EPA will rely on public education and voluntary programs.

- EPA will encourage organizations that use EMSs to obtain stakeholder input on matters relevant to the development and implementation of an EMS and to demonstrate accountability for the performance outcomes of their EMSs through measurable objectives and targets. Additionally, the Agency will encourage organizations to share information on the performance of their EMSs with public and government agencies and facilitate this process where practicable.

- EPA will encourage the use of recognized environmental management frameworks, such as the ISO 14001 Standard, as a basis for designing and implementing EMSs that aim to achieve outcomes aligned with the nation's environmental policy goals and the principles of this Position Statement.

- EPA will collaborate with other key partners—including states, other Federal agencies, tribes, local governments, industry, and non-governmental organizations—as it implements this policy. EPA will support international EMS initiatives that facilitate the increased use of EMSs in the United States. The Agency will ensure that as it implements this policy, its decisions and work are transparent to all interested parties.

- EPA will lead by example, by developing, implementing, and maintaining EMSs at appropriate EPA facilities.

- EPA will foster continual learning by supporting research and public dialogue on EMSs that help improve the Agency's understanding of circumstances where EMSs can advance the nation's environmental policy goals. EPA will continue to collect improved

data on the application of EMSs as it becomes available, including the efficacy of EMSs in improving environmental performance and the costs and benefits of an EMS to an organization and the environment.

Dated: December 13, 2005.

**Stephen L. Johnson,**  
*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. E6-1423 Filed 2-1-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

#### FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

##### Sunshine Act Notice

**AGENCY:** Federal Election Commission.

**DATE AND TIME:** Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at 10 a.m.

**PLACE:** 999 E Street, NW., Washington, DC.

**STATUS:** This meeting will be closed to the public.

##### ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

Compliance matters pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437g.

Audits conducted pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437g, 438(b), and Title 26, U.S.C.

Matters concerning participating in civil actions or proceedings or arbitration. Internal personnel rules and procedures or matters affecting a particular employee.

##### PERSON TO CONTACT FOR INFORMATION:

Mr. Robert Biersack, Press Officer,  
Telephone: (202) 694-1220.

**Mary W. Dove,**

*Secretary of the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 06-1006 Filed 1-31-06; 11:23 am]

**BILLING CODE 6715-01-M**

#### FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

[Docket No. 06-02]

##### The Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District v. West Cameron Port, Harbor and Terminal District; Notice of Filing of Complaint and Assignment

Notice is given that a complaint has been filed with the Federal Maritime Commission ("Commission") by The Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District ("Complainant"), against West Camden Port, Harbor, and Terminal District, ("Respondent"). Complainant asserts that it is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, a deep-water port authority which collects revenue from charges assessed against cargo and vessels using its facilities. Complainant alleges that Respondent is also a subdivision of the State of Louisiana and a port authority. Complainant