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*Comment date:* May 1, 1998, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

#### Standard Paragraph

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of these filings are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

**David P. Boergers,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-10824 Filed 4-22-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6001-9]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Application for NPDES Discharge Permit and the Sewage Sludge Management Permit

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that EPA is planning to submit the following continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Application for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Discharge Permit and the Sewage Sludge Management Permit ICR (Applications ICR), EPA ICR No. 0226.13, OMB Control No. 2040-0086, expires August 31, 1998. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before June 22, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of the ICR will be available at the Water Docket (W-98-12), Mail Code-4101, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M. Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Copies of the ICR can be obtained free of charge by writing to this address. All public comments shall be submitted to: ATTN: NPDES Applications ICR Renewal Comment Clerk, W-98-12, Water Docket MC-4101, U.S. EPA, 401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460.

Please submit the original and three copies of your comments and enclosures (including references). Commenters who want EPA to acknowledge receipt of their comments should enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. No facsimiles (faxes) will be accepted. Comments may also be submitted electronically to: ow-docket@epamail.epa.gov Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and forms of encryption. Electronic comments must be identified by the docket number W-98-12. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail. Comments and data will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect 5.1 format or ASCII file format. Electronic comments on this notice may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries. The record for this proposed ICR revision has been established under docket number W-98-12, and includes supporting documentation as well as printed, paper versions of electronic comments. It does not include any information claimed as CBI. The record is available for inspection from 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays, at the Water Docket, Room M2616, Washington, DC 20460. For access to the docket materials, please call (202) 260-3027 to schedule an appointment.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Angela Lee, Phone: (202)260-6814, Fax: (202) 260-9544, E-mail: Lee.Angela@EPAMail.EPA.gov.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Affected entities:** Publicly owned treatment works (POTWs), privately owned treatment works, new and existing manufacturing and commercial dischargers, storm water dischargers, treatment works treating domestic sewage (TWTDS), and other entities that apply for NPDES permits.

**Title:** Application for NPDES Discharge Permit and the Sewage Sludge Management Permit (EPA ICR No. 0226.13, OMB Control No. 2040-0086, expiring 8/31/98).

**Abstract:** This ICR calculates the burden and costs associated with permit applications for NPDES discharges and sewage sludge management activities. EPA uses the data contained in applications and supplemental information requests to set appropriate permit conditions, issue permits, and assess permit compliance. EPA maintains national applications information in databases, which assist permit writers in determining permit conditions. For most permits, EPA has developed standard application forms. In some cases, such as requests for additional information and storm water applications from municipal separate sewer systems, standard forms do not exist because standard forms are not appropriate for the information collected or because they have not been developed. Application forms correspond to the different types of applicants, each form requesting information necessary for issuing permits to the associated applicants. Applicants include POTWs, privately owned treatment works, new and existing manufacturing and commercial dischargers, storm water dischargers, TWTDS, and others. Depending on the application form they are using, applicants may be required to supply information about their facilities, discharges, treatment systems, sewage sludge use and disposal practices, pollutant sampling data, or other relevant information. Section 308 of the Clean Water Act authorized EPA to request from dischargers any information that may be reasonably required to carry out the objectives and provisions of the Act. Under this authority, EPA sometimes requests information supplemental to that contained in permit applications. In its burden and cost calculations, this ICR includes requests for information supplemental to permit applications. Other parts of the Clean Water Act and federal regulations authorize EPA to collect information that supplements permit applications, such as section 403(c). This ICR calculates the burden and costs for all information collection activities associated with applications for permits. Application information is necessary to obtain an NPDES or sewage sludge permit. Information provided can be accessed by the public through a Freedom of Information Act request. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9 and 48 CFR Chapter 15.

The EPA would like to solicit comments to:  
 (i) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;  
 (ii) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and  
 (iv) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.  
*Burden Statement:* The total respondent burden nation-wide for the

Application for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Discharge Permit and the Sewage Sludge Management Permit ICR is 612,732 burden hours and a cost of \$38,414,978 (including State government burden). This total cost includes contracting costs of \$17,720,000 for biological testing. Tables 1 and 2 detail the respondent and government costs for each of the applications included in this ICR.

TABLE 1.—ESTIMATED ANNUAL RESPONDENT BURDEN

Form/request	Number of respondents	Burden hours per form	Total hours	Respondent labor rate	Total Respondent cost (\$)
Standard Form A	802	15	12,030	\$26.13	\$314,344
Short Form A	3,483	1	3,483	26.13	91,011
Biological Testing:					
Major Municipalities	802	20	16,040	26.13	419,125
Minor Municipalities	84	20	1,680	26.13	43,898
Contractor Costs					17,720,000
Section 308 Requests (Municipalities) Major Municipalities:					
Routine	610	5	3,050		
Medium	107	50	5,350		
Complex	54	1,000	54,000		
Totals	771		62,400	26.13	1,630,512
Contractor Costs					48,600
Minor Municipalities:					
Routine	519	5	2,595	26.13	67,807
Interim Sewage Sludge Permit:					
Municipalities	3,623	8	30,433	26.13	795,220
Privately Owned Treatment Works	27	8	227	43.67	9,904
Form 1:					
New Facilities	5,167	3	15,501	43.67	676,929
Existing Facilities	10,203	1	10,203	43.67	445,565
Form 2b	990	6	5,940	43.67	259,400
Form 2c	5,989	33	197,637	43.67	8,630,808
Form 2d:					
Major New Facilities	40	46	1,840	43.67	80,353
Minor New Facilities	322	32	10,304	43.67	449,976
Section 308 Requests (Non-municipal) Majors:					
Routine	219	5	1,095	43.67	47,819
Medium	27	50	1,350	43.67	58,955
Minors:					
Routine	483	5	2,415	43.67	105,463
Form 2e:					
New Facilities	138	14	1,932	43.67	84,370
Existing Facilities	3,225	14	45,150	43.67	1,971,701
Form 2f	66	29	1,888	43.67	82,431
Alaskan Lands MS4s	3	30	90	43.67	3,930
Large	4	4,432	17,730	26.13	463,274
Medium	7	2,813	19,690	26.13	514,508
Notice of Intent (NOI):					
NOI for Storm Water (SW) General Permit	5,288	1	5,288	43.67	230,927
NOI for SW discharges to MS4s	11,053	1.5	16,580	43.67	724,027
NOI for general permits other than SW	4,217	1	4,217	43.67	184,156
Petition for Individual Permit	24	40	960	26.13	25,085
Permit Consolidation	100	2	200	43.67	8,734
Notice of Construction	3	1	3	43.67	131
Ocean Discharge Recordkeeping	30	778	23,340	43.67	1,019,258
Existing Facilities (Municipal)	4,284	1	4,284	26.13	111,941
Existing Facilities (Non-Municipal)	10,203	1	10,203	43.67	445,565
Major New Facilities	40	5	200	43.67	8,734
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems	11	5	55	26.13	1,437
Minor New Facilities & Individual SW Permits	520	1.5	780	43.67	34,063
Sludge Only Facilities (municipals)	390	1.5	585	26.13	15,286
Sludge Only Facilities (non-municipals)	40	1.5	60	43.67	2,820
Totals	58,480		574,640		37,208,220

TABLE 2.—ESTIMATED ANNUAL GOVERNMENT BURDEN

Form/request	Number reviewed by State	Number reviewed by Federal	Review time (hours)	State burden hours	State cost (\$)	Federal burden hours	Federal cost (\$)
Standard Form A .....	661	141	0.5	331	\$10,530	70.5	\$2,233
Short Form A .....	3,040	443	0.5	1,520	48,427	221.5	7,017
Section 308 Requests (Municipalities)							
Major Municipalities:							
Routine .....	503	107	1.0	503	16,026	107.0	3,390
Medium .....	88	19	10.0	880	28,037	190.0	6,019
Complex .....	45	9	20.0	900	28,674	180.0	5,702
Minor Municipalities:							
Routine .....	453	66	1.0	453	14,443	66.0	2,091
Interim Sewage Sludge Permit:							
Municipalities .....	2,971	652	3.0	8,913	283,968	1,956.0	61,966
Privately Owned Treatment Works ....	22	5	2.0	44	1,402	10.0	317
Form 1:							
New Facilities .....	4,547	620	0.5	2,274	72,434	310.0	9,821
Existing Facilities .....	8,979	1,224	0.5	4,490	143,035	612.0	19,388
Form 2b .....	792	198	0.5	396	12,617	99.0	3,136
Form 2c .....	5,836	796	2.0	11,672	371,870	1,592.0	50,435
Form 2d:							
Major New Facilities .....		40	0.5	0		20.0	634
Minor New Facilities .....		322	0.5	0		161.0	5,100
Section 308 Requests (Non-municipal)							
Majors:							
Routine .....	192	27	1.0	192	6,117	27.0	855
Medium .....	22	5	10.0	220	7,009	50.0	1,584
Minors:							
Routine.							
Form 2e:							
New Facilities .....	121	17	0.5	61	1,928	8.5	269
Existing Facilities .....	3,143	428	0.5	1,572	50,068	214.0	6,780
Form 2f .....	53	13	2.2	117	3,715	28.6	906
Alaskan Lands MS4s .....	0	3	0.6	0		1.8	57
Large .....	3	1	60.0	180	5,735	60.0	1,901
Medium .....	5	2	40.0	200	6,372	80.0	2,534
Notice of Intent (NOI) NOI for Storm Water (SW) General:							
Permit—MSGP .....	0	5,288	0.5	0	0	2,644.0	83,762
NOI for SW discharges to MS4s .....	7,050	2,163	0.3	2,115	67,384	649.0	
NOI for general permits other than SW .....	3,458	759	0.3	865	27,543	189.8	6,011
Petition for Individual Permit .....	20	4	8.0	160	5,098	32.0	1,014
Permit Consolidation .....	81	19	0.5	41	1,290	9.5	301
Notice of Construction .....	0	3	0.6	0		1.8	57
Ocean Discharge .....	24	6	88.0	2,112	67,288	528.0	16,727
Totals .....				38,092.10	1,206,758	6,825.95	216,246.10

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Dated: April 16, 1998.  
**Michael B. Cook,**  
*Director, Office of Wastewater Management.*  
 [FR Doc. 98-10858 Filed 4-22-98; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-6002-1]

**Request for Proposals for Small Public Water Systems Technology Assistance Centers**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency is soliciting proposals from institutions of higher learning interested in establishing a Small Public Water Systems Technology Assistance Center (SPWSTAC). Section 1420(f) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) as amended authorizes the Agency to make grants to institutions of higher learning to establish and operate such centers. The responsibilities of the centers will include the conduct of training and technical assistance relating to the information, performance, and technical needs of small public water systems or public water systems that serve Indian Tribes. The Environmental Protection Agency's fiscal year 1998 appropriation provides \$2 million for establishment of five SPWSTAC's. This document