

United Illuminating Company, ER96-0104-000  
 Unital Power Corp., ER98-1782-000  
 Vermont Marble Power Division, ER95-1165-000  
 Western Power Services, Inc., ER97-2662-000  
 Williams Energy Services Company, ER97-4623-000

Comment date: September 15, 1999, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

### Standard Paragraphs

E. Any person desiring to be heard to protest such filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's rule of practice and procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 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. This filing may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

**David P. Boergers,**

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-23522 Filed 9-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6436-4]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Continuing Collection; Comment Request; National Health Protection Survey of Beaches

**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): National Health Protection Survey of Beaches, EPA ICR No. 1814.02, OMB Control No. 2040-0189, and current expiration date 02/28/2000. 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 November 9, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Office of Water, Office of Science and Technology, Standards and Applied Science Division (4305), 401 M St. SW, Washington, DC 20460.

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the ICR without charge by contacting EPA staff listed in the section below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Charles Kovatch at EPA, telephone 202-260-0642, email [kovatch.charles@epa.gov](mailto:kovatch.charles@epa.gov), facsimile 202-260-9830.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Affected entities:* Entities potentially affected by this action are State, County, City, and Tribal representatives with responsibilities for assessing the impact of water contaminated by microbiological pollutants on persons using beaches and related recreational waters.

*Title:* National Health Protection Survey of Beaches, OMB Control No. 2040-0189, EPA ICR No. 1814.02, expiring 02/28/2000.

*Abstract:* Bacterial and other microbiological contaminants continue to pose potentially adverse human health problems for the nation's recreational waters, including bathing beaches. These adverse effects have been one of EPA's long-standing concerns and are directly related to such Clean Water responsibilities as water quality standards, surface water quality, and Agency efforts to ensure that the waters of the United States are "fishable" and "swimmable." Recent studies have confirmed that health effects resulting from bathing in contaminated waters. Thus, water quality in bathing beach areas remains an important concern to EPA.

EPA believes there is a need to improve the overall quality and availability of public information about beach health protection activities; these include, but are not limited to, water quality standards, monitoring and assessment activities, and beach closures. Many organizations share responsibility for these activities. Consequently, EPA will survey environmental public health officials from State, Tribal, County, and City agencies, as well as representatives from various interest groups to compile and verify this information. EPA will then assemble it into a format that can be readily analyzed and shared with responsible parties, as well as the public. This information collection effort will involve distributing a

questionnaire to various agencies (e.g., State, Tribal, County, City) to evaluate the condition of bathing beaches at freshwater (the Great Lakes and others) and marine (estuarine and coastal) sites around the Nation. Responses to the questionnaire are required to determine compliance with water quality standards, assess public health risks, and determine what steps EPA should take next, if any. Completion of the questionnaire may be voluntary. 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 annual public reporting and record keeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2 hours per response. 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.

(This burden assumes that the number of respondents will continue to increase

as the survey is phased in. For the first two years of the program an average of 350 questionnaires were distributed. EPA assumes the total number of questionnaires to be sent in the next three years as 4,500; 1,000 surveys the first year; 1,500 questionnaires the second year; 2,000 questionnaires the third year.)

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,500.

*Frequency of Response:* One time per year.

*Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden:* 3,000 hours (per year). (13,500 total hours/3 years; 3,000 hours the first year; 4,500 hours the second year; 6,000 hours the third year.)

Dated: September 1, 1999.

**Tudor T. Davies,**

*Director, Office of Science and Technology.*

[FR Doc. 99-23589 Filed 9-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6435-7]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and Sewage Sludge Management State Programs

**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 the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and Sewage Sludge Management State Programs, OMB Control Number 2040-0057, which expires on November 30, 1999. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden and cost; where appropriate, it includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before October 12, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sandy Farmer at EPA, (202) 260-2740, by email at farmer.sandy@epa.gov, or download a copy of the ICR off the internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr> and refer to EPA ICR No. 0168.07.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Title:* National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Sewage Sludge Management State

Programs (OMB Control No. 2040-0057; EPA ICR No. 0168.07) which expires on 11/30/99. This is a request for extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* Under the NPDES program, States, Federally Recognized Indian Tribes, and U.S. Territories, hereafter referred to as States, may acquire the authority to issue permits. These governments have the option of acquiring authority to issue general permits (permits that cover a category or categories of similar discharges). States with existing NPDES programs must submit requests for program modifications to add Federal facilities, or general permit authority. In addition, as federal statutes and regulations are modified, States must submit program modifications to ensure that their program continues to meet Federal requirements.

States have the option of obtaining a sludge management program. This program may be a component of a State NPDES Program, or it may be administered as a separate program. To obtain a NPDES or sludge program, a State must submit an application that includes a program description, an Attorney General's Statement, draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the EPA Region, and copies of the State's statutes and regulations.

Once a State obtains authority for an NPDES or sludge program, it becomes responsible for implementing the program in that jurisdiction. The State must retain records on the permittees and perform inspections. In addition, when a State obtains NPDES or sludge authority, EPA must oversee the program. Thus, States must submit permit information and compliance reports to the EPA.

When EPA issues a permit in an unauthorized State, that State must certify that the permit requirements comply with State water laws. According to the Clean Water Act (CWA) (section 510), States may adopt discharge requirements that are equal to or more stringent than requirements in the CWA or Federal regulations.

There are three categories of reporting requirements that are covered by this ICR. The first category, "State Program Requests," includes the activities States must complete to request a new NPDES or sludge program, or to modify an existing program. The second category, "State Program Implementation," includes the activities that approved States must complete to implement an existing program, such as certification of EPA-issued permits by non-NPDES States. The third category, "State Program Oversight," includes activities required of NPDES States so that EPA

may satisfy its statutory requirements for state program oversight.

The information collected by EPA is used to evaluate the adequacy of a State's NPDES or sludge program and to provide EPA with the information necessary to fulfill its statutory oversight functions over State program performance and individual permit actions. EPA will use this information to evaluate State requests for full or partial program approval and program modifications. In order to evaluate the adequacy of a State's proposed program, appropriate information must be provided to ensure that proper procedures, regulations, and statutes are in place and consistent with the CWA requirements.

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 **Federal Register** document required under 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on 6/9/98 (63 FR 31461); no comments were received.

*Burden Statement:* The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information ranges from 4 to 2,080 hours per response. 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.

*Respondents/Affected Entities:* states, tribes, territories.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 613.

*Frequency of Response:* varies.  
*Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden:* 1,140,794 hours.

*Estimated Total Annualized Cost Burden (non-labor):* \$0.

Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates, and any suggested methods for minimizing