

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission****Notice of Application Tendered for Filing With the Commission**

January 6, 2000.

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

a. *Type of Application:* New Major License.

b. *Project No.:* 2016-044.

c. *Date filed:* December 27, 1999.

d. *Applicant:* City of Tacoma.

e. *Name of Project:* Cowlitz River Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* On the Cowlitz River, in Lewis County, Washington. About 5 acres are included within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act 16 U.S.C. 791(a)-825(r).

h. *Applicant Contact:* Toby Freeman, Tacoma Power, 3628 South 35th Street, Tacoma, WA 98411; (253) 502-8862.

i. *FERC Contact:* David Turner (202) 219-2844, Email: david.turner@ferc.fed.us

j. *Brief Project Description:* The 462-megawatt (MW) project consists of the following: (1) 606-foot-high, 1,300-foot-long Moosyrock Dam and powerhouse containing two generating units with a combined capacity of 300 MW, (2) 11,830-acre Riffe Lake at maximum operating pool elevation of 778.5 feet, (3) 250 foot-high, 850-foot-long Mayfield Dam and powerhouse containing four generating units with a combined capacity of 162 MW, (4) 2,250-acre Mayfield Lake at maximum operating pool elevation of 425 feet, (5) 17.9 miles of 230 kilovolt transmission line, (6) Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery, (7) a 400-foot-long, 28-foot-high zoned earthen embankment that connects to a 320-foot-long, 12-foot-high concrete fish barrier at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery, known as Barrier Dam, (8) Cowlitz Trout Hatchery, (9) Mossyrock Park, (10) Taidnapam Park, and other associated facilities.

k. *Locations of the application:* A copy of the application is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, located at 888 First Street, NE, Room 2A, Washington, D.C. 20426, or by calling (202) 208-1371. The application may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call (202) 208-2222 for assistance). A copy is also available for inspection and

reproduction at the address in item h above.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-664 Filed 1-11-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6522-3]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Reporting and Recordkeeping Activities Associated With EPA's SF₆ Emission Reduction Partnership for the Magnesium Industry

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 proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Reporting and Recordkeeping Activities Associated with EPA's SF₆ Emission Reduction Partnership for the Magnesium Industry, EPA ICR No. 1942.01. 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 March 13, 2000.

ADDRESSES: To obtain a free copy of the proposed ICR, contact Scott Bartos, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 401 M Street, SW (6202J) Washington, DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Bartos, Program Manager Tel.: (202) 564-9167, Fax: (202) 565-2078, E-mail: bartos.scott@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are those which produce or cast magnesium and magnesium-based alloys.

Title: Reporting and Recordkeeping Activities Associated with EPA's SF₆ Emission Reduction Partnership for the Magnesium Industry (EPA ICR No. 1942.01).

Abstract: In April 1993, President Clinton issued the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), which established a national commitment to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. EPA's newly launched SF₆ Emission Reduction

Partnership for the Magnesium Industry is an important voluntary program contributing to the country's overall reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Like Energy Star Buildings, the Voluntary Aluminum Industrial Partnership, the PFC Emission Reduction Partnership for the Semiconductor Industry, and other programs, the SF₆ Emission Reduction Partnership for the Magnesium Industry is a voluntary effort aimed at preventing pollution before it is generated. These voluntary programs all focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and tracking progress by collecting information from partners on a periodic basis.

The SF₆ Emissions Reduction Partnership for the Magnesium Industry is a voluntary, non-regulatory program that promotes reduction of sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆) emissions from companies that melt and cast magnesium. These companies generally include primary magnesium plants and magnesium casting facilities. EPA's Climate Protection Division (CPD) manages the voluntary program.

SF₆ is the most potent greenhouse gas known; it is 23,900 times as effective as carbon dioxide (CO₂) at trapping heat in the Earth's atmosphere. Once released, it will remain in the atmosphere for more than 3,000 years. Magnesium companies use SF₆ gas to prevent the molten metal from violent oxidation (*i.e.*, burning or explosions).

EPA's partnership with the magnesium industry seeks to inform partners about available cost-effective emission reduction technologies and keep track of successful emission reduction efforts. EPA works with the U.S. magnesium companies and serves as a clearinghouse for technical information on strategies for reducing SF₆ emissions that are economically, technically, and environmentally sound. EPA will also conduct preliminary assessments of possible substitute gases and share this information with partners. Ultimately, EPA provides recognition to companies for their successes in reducing SF₆ emissions, either through certificates and awards or through assistance in publishing their achievements.

Participation in the program begins by completing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines EPA and partner company responsibilities. This MOU defines a voluntary agreement between the magnesium company and EPA. All U.S. magnesium producing and casting companies are invited to join the partnership. The MOU agreement can be terminated by either party 30 days after receipt of

written notice by the other party with no penalties or continuing obligations.

By joining the partnership, a company agrees to track and report an estimate of its SF₆ emissions to EPA annually. The International Magnesium Association (IMA) acts as a third party, assembling the reported data and transmitting it to EPA for the purpose of protecting the confidentiality of data submitted by individual companies. A partner company's annual report will indicate:

- An estimated normalized SF₆ emission rate in terms of the weight of SF₆ emitted (kg) per unit weight of magnesium produced or processed (metric tons).
- Estimated total SF₆ emissions.
- Information provided at the partner's discretion on efforts the company has undertaken to reduce SF₆ use or emissions.

It is anticipated that SF₆ emissions will be reported based on records of SF₆ use, with any necessary adjustments made to account for emission reductions achieved by the Company during the year. IMA will prepare a report for EPA that presents a total SF₆ emissions estimate for all reporting partners. The partnership will track progress as a group using the aggregate total SF₆ emissions estimate and by individual company using the normalized emissions rate. The emissions data will be presented along with the optional descriptions of partner activities in an annual report in an effort to promote technical information sharing. In preparing this report, any information designated confidential by partners will be omitted or otherwise protected. 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: In estimating the expected burden, EPA assumes 10 companies will join in the first year and 5 companies will join in each of the second and third years for an average of 15 partners/year over the 3 years covered by this ICR.

Average annual reporting burden hours = 1,834.

Average burden hours/response = 122.

Frequency of response = 1/year.

Estimated number of respondents = 15.

Estimated total annual cost burden = \$95,251.

Total capital and start-up costs = \$931.

Total operation and maintenance costs = \$26,400.

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: December 20, 1999.

Jeanne Briskin,

Chief, State Outreach & Industrial Branch.

[FR Doc. 00-731 Filed 1-11-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6522-5]

Adequacy Status of Submitted State Implementation Plans for Transportation Conformity Purposes: Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) 9% Rate-of-Progress for Ozone

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of adequacy status.

SUMMARY: In this document, EPA is announcing that the motor vehicle emissions budgets contained in the

submitted DFW 9% Rate-of-Progress (ROP) for ozone State Implementation Plan (SIP) are adequate for transportation conformity purposes. As a result of this determination, the budgets from the submitted DFW 9% ROP SIP may be used for future conformity determinations in the DFW area. No comments were received during the public comment period.

DATES: These budgets are effective January 27, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. J. Behnam, P. E., The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75202; telephone (214) 665-7247.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Transportation conformity is required by section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act. The EPA's conformity rule, 40 CFR part 93, requires that transportation plans, programs, and projects conform to SIPs and establishes the criteria and procedures for determining whether or not they do. Conformity to a SIP means that transportation activities will not produce new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the national ambient air quality standards. The criteria by which EPA determines whether a SIP's motor vehicle emission budgets are adequate for conformity purposes are outlined in 40 CFR 93.118(e)(4). An adequacy review is separate from EPA's completeness review, and it should not be used to prejudge EPA's ultimate approval of the SIP. Even if we find a budget adequate, the SIP could later be disapproved.

On March 2, 1999, the D. C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that budgets contained in submitted SIPs cannot be used for conformity determinations unless EPA has affirmatively found the conformity budget adequate. We have described our process for determining the adequacy of submitted SIP budgets in the policy guidance dated May 14, 1999, and titled Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999 Conformity Court Decision. You may obtain a copy of this guidance from EPA's conformity web site: <http://www.epa.gov/oms/traq> (once there, click on "conformity" and then scroll down) or by contacting us at the address above.

By this notice, we are simply announcing the adequacy determination that we have already made. On October 29, 1999, we received the DFW 9% ROP SIP which contained a volatile organic compounds budget of 147.22 tons/day and a nitrogen oxides budget of 284.14 tons/day. Notice that we had received this SIP was parallel processed and