

annual burden estimate. This is a more transparent method since it relies on simple multiplication of the estimated number of respondents by the unit burden associated with each.

Dated: October 4, 2004.

Oscar Morales,

Director, Collection Strategies Division.

[FR Doc. 04-22959 Filed 10-12-04; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OECA-2004-0093; FRL-7827-1]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review and Approval; Comment Request; Clean Air Act Tribal Authority (Renewal), ICR Number 1676.04, OMB Number 2060-0306

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 an Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. This is a request to renew an existing approved collection. This ICR is scheduled to expire on October 31, 2004. Under OMB regulations, the Agency may continue to conduct or sponsor the collection of information while this submission is pending at OMB. This ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its estimated burden and cost.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before November 12, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, referencing docket ID number OAR-2004-0093, to (1) EPA online using EDOCKET (our preferred method), by email to a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov, or by mail to: Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, EPA West, Mail Code 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460, and (2) OMB at: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Darrel Harmon, Immediate Office, Office of Air and Radiation, Mail Code 6101A, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.,

Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (202) 564-7416; fax number (202) 501-0394, E-mail address: harmon.darrel@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA has submitted the following ICR to OMB for review and approval according to the procedures prescribed in 5 CFR 1320.12. On July 13, 2004 (69 FR 42052), EPA sought comments on this ICR pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.8(d). EPA received no comments.

EPA has established a public docket for this ICR under Docket ID Number OAR-2004-0093, which is available for public viewing at the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center in the EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Avenue, 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 Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center Docket is: (202) 566-1741. An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA Dockets (EDOCKET) at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket>. Use EDOCKET to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. When in the system, select "search," then key in the docket ID number identified above.

Any comments related to this ICR should be submitted to EPA and OMB within 30 days of this notice. EPA's policy is that public comments, whether submitted electronically or in paper, will be made available for public viewing in EDOCKET as EPA receives them and without change, unless the comment contains copyrighted material, Confidential Business Information (CBI), or other information whose public disclosure is restricted by statute. When EPA identifies a comment containing copyrighted material, EPA will provide a reference to that material in the version of the comment that is placed in EDOCKET. The entire printed comment, including the copyrighted material, will be available in the public docket. Although identified as an item in the official docket, information claimed as CBI, or whose disclosure is otherwise restricted by statute, is not included in the official public docket, and will not be available for public viewing in EDOCKET. For further information about the electronic docket, see EPA's **Federal Register** notice describing the electronic docket at 67 FR 38102 (May

31, 2002), or go to <http://www.epa.gov/edocket>.

Title: Clean Air Act Tribal Authority (Renewal).

Abstract: This Information Collection Request (ICR) seeks authorization for Tribes to demonstrate their eligibility to be treated in the same manner as states under the Clean Air Act (CAA) and to submit applications to implement a CAA program. This ICR extends the collection period of information for determining eligibility, which expires October 31, 2004. The ICR also is revising the estimates of burden costs for Tribes in completing a CAA application.

The program regulation provides for Indian Tribes, if they so choose, to assume responsibility for the development and implementation of CAA programs. The regulation, Indian Tribes: Air Quality Planning and Management (Tribal Authority Rule [TAR] 40 CFR parts 9, 35, 49, 50 and 81), sets forth how Tribes may seek authority to implement their own air quality planning and management programs. The rule establishes: (1) Which CAA provisions Indian Tribes may seek authority to implement, (2) what requirements the Tribes must meet when seeking such authorization, and (3) what Federal financial assistance may be available to help Tribes establish and manage their air quality programs. The TAR provides Tribes the authority to administer air quality programs over all air resources, including non-Indian owned fee lands, within the exterior boundaries of a reservation and other areas over which the tribe can demonstrate jurisdiction. An Indian Tribe that takes responsibility for a CAA program would essentially be treated in the same way as a State would be treated for that program. 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, and are identified on the form and/or instrument, if applicable.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 40 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: State, Local, or Tribal Governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 27.

Frequency of Response: One time application.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 360 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Costs: \$26,438, which includes \$0 annualized capital/startup costs, \$0 annual O&M costs, and \$26,438 annual labor costs.

Changes in Estimates: There is a decrease of 67 hours in the total estimated burden currently identified in the OMB Inventory of Approved ICR Burdens. This decrease is based on estimates of fewer responses.

Dated: October 4, 2004.

Oscar Morales,

Director, Collection Strategies Division.

[FR Doc. 04-22960 Filed 10-12-04; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7827-4]

State Innovation Grant Program, Preliminary Notice and Request for Input on the Development of a Solicitation for Proposals for 2004/2005 Awards

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation (OPEI) is giving a preliminary notice of its intention to solicit proposals for a 2004/2005 grant program to support innovation by state environmental regulatory agencies—the “State Innovation Grant Program.” The Agency is also seeking input from State Environmental Regulatory Agencies on the topic areas for the solicitation. In addition, EPA is asking each State Environmental Regulatory Agency to designate a point of contact at the management level (in addition to the Commissioner or Cabinet Secretary level) who should receive further

communication about the upcoming solicitation. EPA anticipates publication of a **Federal Register** notice to announce the availability of the next solicitation within 75 days.

DATES: State Environmental Regulatory Agencies will have 30 days from the date of this pre-announcement notice in the **Federal Register** publication until November 12, 2004, to respond with: (1) Suggestions for specific topics that should be included under the general subject area of “Innovation in Environmental Permitting Programs” (e.g., topics with 1–2 paragraphs description) for the next solicitation; and (2) point of contact information (name, title, mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address) for the person within the State Environmental Regulatory Agency (in addition to Commissioner or Cabinet Secretaries) who should receive future notices about the State Innovation Grants. We will automatically transmit notice of availability of the solicitation to people in State agencies identified for previous solicitations.

ADDRESSES: Information should be sent to: State Innovation Grant Program; Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1807T); 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460. Responses may also be sent by fax to (202-566-2220), addressed to the “State Innovation Grant Program,” or by e-mail to:

Innovation_State_Grants@EPA.gov. We encourage e-mail responses. If you have questions about responding to this notice, please contact EPA at this e-mail address or fax number, or you may call Sherri Walker at 202-566-2186. For point of contact information, please provide: name, title, department and agency, street or Post Office address, city, State, zip code, telephone, fax, and e-mail address. EPA will acknowledge all responses it receives to this notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: In April 2002, EPA issued its plan for future innovation efforts, published as *Innovating for Better Environmental Results: A Strategy to Guide the Next Generation of Innovation at EPA* (EPA 100-R-02-002; <http://www.epa.gov/innovation/strategy/>). The Agency’s *Innovation Strategy* presents a framework for environmental innovation consisting of four major elements:

- (1) Strengthen EPA’s innovation partnerships with States;
- (2) Focus on priority environmental issues;
- (3) Diversify environmental protection tools and approaches;

(4) Foster a more “innovation-friendly” organizational culture and systems. This assistance program strengthens EPA’s partnership with the States by supporting State innovation compatible with the *Innovation Strategy*. EPA would like to help States build on previous experience and undertake strategic innovation projects that promote larger-scale models for “next generation” environmental protection and promise better environmental results. EPA is interested in funding projects that go beyond a single facility experiment and obtain better results from a program, process, or sector-wide innovation. EPA is particularly interested in innovation that promotes integrated (cross-media) environmental management and is transferable to other States.

In 2002, EPA initiated the State Innovation Grants Program with a competition that asked for State project proposals that would create innovation in environmental permitting programs related to one of the Innovation Strategy’s four priority environmental issues: reducing greenhouse gases, reducing smog, improving water quality, and ensuring the long-term integrity of the nation’s water infrastructure. In addition, the solicitation encouraged projects that test incentives that motivate “beyond-compliance” environmental performance, or move whole sectors toward improved environmental performance. The 2002 competition resulted in six state innovation project awards. In October 2003, the EPA National Center for Environmental Innovation (NCEI) opened the 2003/2004 competition for projects to be funded in 2004. On April 16, 2004, EPA announced the ten projects that have been selected from this new competition. EPA is currently completing awards to States selected in that competition. For more information on last year’s solicitation, the proposals received, and the 2003–04 award decisions, please see the Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/innovation/stategrants>.

Request for Input on Solicitation Topics and Priorities: Like the prior two solicitations, the 2004/2005 State Innovation Grant Program competition will seek to strengthen EPA’s innovation partnership with States by providing a source of funding to facilitate State efforts to test new models for “next generation” environmental protection that will provide better environmental results, consistent with the goals of EPA’s *Innovation Strategy*.

EPA proposes to retain “innovation in permitting” as the general subject area of the upcoming solicitation as well as