

or both meetings and assist the staff in identifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA.

To help focus discussions at the meetings, a scoping document outlining subject areas to be addressed in the EA will be mailed to agencies and interested individuals on the FERC mailing list. Copies of the scoping document will also be available at the scoping meetings.

#### Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the FERC staff will: (1) Identify preliminary environmental issues related to the proposed project; (2) identify preliminary resource issues that are not important and do not require detailed analysis; (3) identify reasonable alternatives to the proposal; (4) solicit from meeting participants all available information, especially quantified data, on the resource issues; and (5) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EA, including points of view in opposition to, or in support of, the staff's preliminary views.

#### Procedures

The scoping meetings will be recorded by a court reporter and all statements, both oral and written, will become part of the formal record of the Commission proceedings on the Therm II Project. Individuals presenting statements at the meetings will be asked to clearly identify themselves for the record.

Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meetings and assist the staff in defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed in the EA.

Persons choosing not to speak at the meetings, but who have views on the issues or information relevant to the issues, may submit written statements for inclusion in the public record at the meetings. In addition, written scoping comments (an original and eight copies) may be filed with Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 1st Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, until December 16, 1996.

All written correspondence should clearly show the following caption on the first page: Therm II Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 11565-000.

Intervenors—those on the Commission's service list for this proceeding (parties)—are reminded of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, requiring parties filing documents with the Commission, to serve a copy of the document on each

person whose name appears on the official service list. Further, if a party files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

#### Site Visit

A site visit to the Therm II Hydroelectric Project is planned for Tuesday, November 12, 1996. Those who wish to attend should plan to meet at 9:00 AM at the Joint Water District, 735 Virginia Street, Gridley, California. For more details, contact Mr. Stan Malinky, Thermalito Power Corporation, at (916) 372-0534.

Any questions regarding this notice may be directed to Gaylord W. Hoisington, FERC Environmental Coordination, at (202) 210-2756.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-27218 Filed 10-23-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

#### Notice of New Docket Prefix

October 18, 1996.

Notice is hereby given that a new docket prefix has been established for petitions for declaratory order requesting a Commission determination on stranded costs.

Under the stranded cost procedures set forth in Order No. 888, Promoting Wholesale Competition Through Open Access Nondiscriminatory Transmission Services by Public Utilities, and Recovery of Stranded Costs by Public Utilities and Transmitting Utilities, 61 FR 21540 (May 10, 1996), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,036 at 31,844 (1996), *reh'g pending*, a customer may file a petition for declaratory order:

to seek a Commission determination as to whether: (i) the utility has met the reasonable expectation standard; (ii) the proposed stranded cost charge satisfies the other evidentiary standards set forth in this Rule; (iii) the amount of released capacity and the amount of associated energy proposed by the utility is reasonable; or (iv) the utility's proposal for any contract amendment needed to implement the customer's payment of stranded costs is reasonable.

In order to properly docket and manage this type of case and assess Commission resources applicable to this type of work, it is necessary to establish a new docket prefix for stranded cost declaratory order petitions. The new docket prefix will be SCFY-NN-NNN, where the FY stands for the fiscal year in which the filing was made and the NN and NNN are sequential numbers.

For example, the first stranded cost declaratory order petition made this fiscal year will be assigned SC97-1-000, the second will be SC97-2-000, etc.

The establishment of the new docket will apply only to stranded cost determinations sought in declaratory order proceedings. If stranded cost determinations are sought in Section 205 rate filings or in Section 206 complaints to amend existing contracts, they will be given their normal ER and EL docket designations.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-27213 Filed 10-23-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5639-8]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Invitation for Bids and Request for Proposals

ACTION: Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that EPA is planning to submit the following continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Invitation for Bids and Request for Proposals, EPA ICR No. 1038.09; OMB Control No. 2030-0007; expiration date 3/31/97. 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 December 23, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Acquisition Management (3802F), 401 M Street, S.W., Washington D.C. 20460, Attention: Edward N. Chambers.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Edward N. Chambers. (202) 260-6028/ FAX: (202) 260-1203/CHAMBERS. EDWARD@A1@MAIL.EPA.GOV

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Affected entities:** Entities potentially affected by this action are EPA contractors.

**Title:** Invitation for Bids and Request for Proposals (OMB Control No. 2030-0007; EPA ICR No. 1038.09) expiring 3/31/97.

**Abstract:** Firms which are interested in providing supplies or services to EPA will furnish information on previous

contracts performed, technical information, and cost or pricing information or data. They will submit this information when the Agency announces a need for supplies or services which they are capable of providing. EPA will use this information to determine which firm's offer is most suited to the Agency's 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 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 annual burden for all respondents is estimated at 399,342 hours. The invitation for bids (IFB) component of this burden is estimated at 2,912 hours (364 bids  $\times$  8 hours per bid). The Request for Proposals (RFP) component is estimated at 396,430 hours (1,367 proposals  $\times$  290 hours per proposal). The total number of respondents and responses is estimated at 1,731 (364 bids + 1,367 proposals). The annual costs for all respondents is estimated at \$20,770,435. The IFB component of these costs is estimated at \$149,240 (364 bids  $\times$  \$410 per bid). The RFP component is estimated at \$20,621,195 (1,367 proposals  $\times$  \$15,085 per proposal).

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; to 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; to adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; to train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; to search data sources; to complete and review the collection of information; and to transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Dated: October 16, 1996.

Edward J. Murphy,

Chief, Procurement Policy Branch.

[FR Doc. 96-27308 Filed 10-23-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

#### [FRL-5639-7]

### EPA's Drinking Water Contaminant Identification Method

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

**ACTION:** Announcement of a stakeholder meeting on the drinking water contaminant identification method.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has scheduled a two-day public meeting on EPA's development of a Drinking Water Contaminant Identification Method. The purpose of this meeting is to have a dialogue with stakeholders and the public at large on the process for developing a sound and defensible method to identify contaminants for drinking water regulations, health advisories, toxicity research, and monitoring. The upcoming meeting is a continuation of a series of meetings with stakeholders that started in 1995 to obtain input on the Agency's Drinking Water Program. These meetings were initiated as part of the Drinking Water Program Redirection efforts to help refocus EPA's drinking water priorities and to take a risk-based approach in the allocation of program resources. Thus, the Agency seeks to ensure that the highest priority chemicals are targeted for public health protection. In recent months, EPA has been working on a Conceptual Approach for drinking water contaminant identification. At the upcoming meeting, EPA is seeking input from individual stakeholders with different perspectives on the process for the development and implementation of the Contaminant Identification Method and on the Conceptual Approach for contaminant identification. EPA encourages the full participation of stakeholders throughout this process.

**DATES:** The stakeholder meeting on the Drinking Water Contaminant Identification Method will be held on

December 2-3, 1996 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Resolve, Inc. (an EPA contractor) will provide logistical support for the stakeholders meeting. The meeting will be held in the greater Washington, D.C. area. Meeting registrants will be provided information on the location prior to the meeting. For additional information, please contact Ms. Lee Langstaff, at Resolve, Inc., at phone: (202) 965-6210 or fax: (202) 338-1264.

Members of the public wishing to attend the meeting may register by phone by contacting Ms. Langstaff by November 15, 1996. Those registered for the meeting will receive background materials prior to the meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general information about the meeting logistics, please contact Ms. Lee Langstaff at Resolve, Inc., 2828 Pennsylvania Avenue (Suite 402), N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007; (phone: 202-965-6210); (fax: 202-338-1264).

For other information on the Drinking Water Contaminant Identification Method, please contact Ms. Evelyn Washington, at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Phone: 202-260-3029, Fax: 202-260-3762.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### A. Background on the Drinking Water Contaminant Identification Method

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) amendments of 1986 required the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to publish a triennial list of contaminants ("Drinking Water Priority List" or DWPL) which may require regulation under the Act. In response to the 1986 amendments, EPA published two DWPLs which were to serve as "candidate contaminants" for regulation. The first DWPL was published on January 22, 1988 (53 FR 1892) and consisted of 53 contaminants/contaminant groups. A second DWPL was published on January 14, 1991 (56 FR 1470). The second list carried over most of the contaminants from the first list (50 substances) and added 27 new substances. The referenced Federal Register notices describe the sources of information used for the identification of contaminants for inclusion in the two Drinking Water Priority Lists.

The SDWA, as amended in 1996, continues to require EPA to publish a list of unregulated contaminants which are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems and which may require regulation under the Act. The 1996 amendments specify that EPA must publish the first list of contaminants for consideration not later