

Energy, P.O. Box 1619, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101, (918) 595-6696.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Following Department of Energy (DOE) guidance in its response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's April 24, 1996, Order No. 888 (Promoting Wholesale Competition Through Open Access Non-Discriminatory Transmission Services by Public Utilities), Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) is reviewing its rate design structure to ensure compliance with the intent of Order 888 for open access wholesale electric transmission rates. A Public Forum was convened Tuesday, October 29, 1996, in Southwestern's offices in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Forum was held to explain the goals of the rate design review process and identify areas of specific concern. At the Forum and through a formal comment period, Southwestern sought comments and opinions regarding potential approaches to the rate design of ancillary services and the unbundling of the generation and transmission rates.

A transcript of the Public Forum was made. For a fee, copies of the transcript may be obtained from the transcribing service.

An interested parties list was also developed for those parties that were unable to attend the Public Forum, but wanted to receive any mailings regarding this issue in the future.

It was anticipated that a Technical Conference would need to be convened before the end of February 1997 to review specific comments and encourage discussions to help ensure a better understanding of the technicalities of the issues being reviewed (e.g. Development of Ancillary Services). In October 15, 1996, Federal Register Notice (61 FR 53732), Southwestern provided notification of its plan to convene a conference to review, in detail, the technical comments received to help determine how the technicalities could best be incorporated into the rates for transmission services. The Comments received were not technical in nature and virtually all are consistent with Southwestern's anticipated approach to unbundling transmission and generation rates. Therefore, with only minimal benefits expected to be gained from holding a technical conference, Southwestern will *not* conduct such a conference.

Southwestern proposes to pursue the unbundling of its transmission services in conjunction with its normal repayment process. As part of this process, a formal comment period will

be provided to allow interested parties to provide comments and suggestions regarding the rates being developed.

We look forward to your continued interest and participation in the ongoing process of rate development.

Issued in Tulsa, Oklahoma, this 27th day of January, 1997.

Michael A. Deihl,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-2826 Filed 2-4-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5685-4]

Proposed Settlement, Acid Rain Opt-in-Rule Litigation

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of proposed settlement; Request for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 113(g) of the Clean Air Act ("Act"), notice is hereby given of a proposed settlement of *Alcoa Generating Corporation v. United States Environmental Protection Agency*, No. 95-1292 (D.C. Cir.).

This case involves a challenge to the final rule, entitled "Opting into the Acid Rain Program," which, *inter alia*, established provisions that allow certain sulfur dioxide emitting combustion sources that are not otherwise subject to the Acid Rain Program to voluntarily become subject to, or "opt into," the Acid Rain Program and receive marketable emission allowances.

For a period of thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this notice, the environmental Protection Agency will receive written comments relating to the settlement from persons who were not named as parties to the litigation in question. The Agency or the Department of Justice may withhold or withdraw consent to the proposed settlement if the comments disclose facts or circumstances that indicate that such consent is inappropriate, improper, inadequate, or inconsistent with the requirements of the Act. Copies of the settlement are available from Jacqueline Jordan, Cross-Cutting Issues Division (2322), Office of General Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460, (202) 260-7622. Written comments should be sent to Jonathan Averback, Air and Radiation division (2344), Office of General Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, S.W.,

Washington, D.C. 20460 and must be submitted on or before March 7, 1997.

Dated: January 27, 1997.

Scott C. Fulton,

Acting General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 97-2842 Filed 2-4-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

[FRL-5683-2]

Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program; Draft TMDL Program Implementation Strategy

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: EPA's Assistant Administrator for Water hereby makes available for public comment a Draft TMDL Program Implementation Strategy. The TMDL program addresses waters that do not meet State water quality standards even after pollution sources have implemented required pollution controls. CWA section 303(d) requires States to identify these waters and develop TMDLs for them, with oversight from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A TMDL allocates pollutant loadings among pollution sources in a watershed, and is a basis for taking the actions needed to restore a waterbody.

The Draft TMDL Program Implementation Strategy explains EPA's vision, priorities and the steps the Agency will take to help States meet TMDL program requirements. The Strategy identifies issues for which EPA may develop guidance and/ or make regulatory changes. The Strategy also describes activities that are currently underway, have been recently initiated, or for which EPA will direct a greater portion of its available program resources.

EPA will use this Draft Strategy to explain the Agency's current plans to fully implement the TMDL program and to facilitate broad-based public discussion on how the TMDL program can be improved. EPA has provided the Draft Strategy as background information to the recently formed TMDL Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) Committee. The Committee will develop recommendations concerning needed changes to this Draft Strategy as well as all TMDL related policies, guidance regulations, and priorities.

DATES: EPA is accepting comments on the Draft TMDL Program Implementation Strategy for 90 days following the date of publication of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Please direct comments on, and requests for, the Draft TMDL Program Implementation Strategy to the following: Environmental Protection Agency, Assessment and Watershed Protection Division, Office of Water (4503F), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Theresa G. Tũaño, Assessment and Watershed Protection Division, Watershed Branch, at the address given above; telephone 202/260-7059. The Draft TMDL Program Implementation Strategy is also available on the EPA Office of Water Home Page on the Internet at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wtr1/tmdl/index.html>. Please refer to the Home Page for instructions on submitting electronic comments.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.

Robert Perciasepe,
Assistant Administrator for Water.

[FR Doc. 97-2575 Filed 2-4-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE: 6560-50-P

[OPPTS-00208; FRL-5582-5]

Notice of Availability of FY 1997 Grant Funds for the Establishment of a Pollution Prevention Information Network

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: EPA is soliciting grant proposals to establish a national network of pollution prevention information centers. EPA anticipates that between \$750,000 and \$1 million will be available. The purpose of this request for proposals is threefold: (1) To create new centers for the collection, synthesis and dissemination of pollution prevention information for States not currently served by a pollution prevention regional center, (2) to support existing regional pollution prevention information centers and (3) to coordinate work among new and existing centers in order to: minimize duplication of effort in information collection and synthesis, and training for the promotion of pollution prevention technologies, and establish information standards and peer review that will facilitate information exchange among centers. Grants/cooperative agreements will be awarded under the authority of the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990.

DATES: Applications must be postmarked by April 28, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To obtain copies of the grant guidance and application package or to obtain more information regarding this program, please contact Beth Anderson at (202) 260-2602. You may also forward your requests and questions via the Internet to: anderson.beth@epamail.epa.gov or mail your request to Beth Anderson at the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Mail Code 7409, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Scope and Purpose of this Grant Competition

1. *The Pollution Prevention Act of 1990.* This solicitation is made under the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 (the Act) (Pub. L. 101-508), which established as national policy that pollution should be prevented or reduced at the source whenever feasible. Section 6603 of the Act defines source reduction as any practice that:

(1) Reduces the amount of any hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant entering any waste stream or otherwise released into the environment (including fugitive emissions) prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal; and

(2) Reduces the hazards to public health and the environment associated with the release of such substances, pollutants, or contaminants.

EPA further defines pollution prevention (P2) as the use of other practices that reduce or eliminate the creation of pollutants through: increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, water or other resources, or protection of natural resources, or protection of natural resources by conservation.

Section 6605 of the Act authorizes EPA to make matching grants to States to promote the use of source reduction techniques by businesses. In evaluating grant applications, the Act directs EPA to consider whether the proposed State program will:

(1) Make technical assistance available to businesses seeking information about source reduction opportunities, including funding for experts to provide on-site technical advice and to assist in the development of source reduction plans.

(2) Target assistance to businesses for whom lack of information is an impediment to source reduction.

(3) Provide training in source reduction techniques.

Section 6606 of the Act authorizes EPA to establish a source reduction

clearinghouse to compile information on management, technical and operational approaches to source reduction. The Act States that EPA should use the clearinghouse to:

(1) Serve as a center for source reduction technology transfer.

(2) Mount active outreach and education programs by the States to further the adoption of source reduction technologies.

(3) Collect and compile information reported by States receiving grants under section 6605 on the operation and successes of State source reduction programs.

2. *Purpose of national pollution prevention information network.*

Currently there are few limited mechanisms or systems to coordinate the development, review, and dissemination of pollution prevention information among Federal, State, local agencies, and universities involved in promoting source reduction technologies. Access to pollution prevention (P2) information and assistance varies across the United States. In addition, not all programs providing assistance to small businesses have access to pollution prevention information that may be useful and relevant to their clientele. As a result, the purpose of this request for proposals is three fold: (1) To create new centers for the collection, synthesis and dissemination of pollution prevention information for States not currently served by a pollution prevention regional center, (2) to support existing regional pollution prevention information centers, and (3) to coordinate work among new and existing centers in order to: minimize duplication of effort in information collection and synthesis, and training for the promotion of pollution prevention technologies, and establish information standards and peer review that will facilitate information exchange among centers.

The development of a P2 information network of centers would allow State P2 information needs to be addressed on a regional basis and allow for improved information exchange. A coordinated network would facilitate information exchange and decrease duplicative research that might be conducted in each State by standardizing formats for P2 information (such as case studies or vendors) and developing systems to: coordinate information needs, determine types of P2 information that need to be developed, coordinate the production of relevant P2 information, disseminate this information among small business assistance providers, and evaluate the effectiveness of the