

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 2232-346]

Duke Energy Corporation; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

June 3, 1998.

An environmental assessment (EA) is available for public review. The EA was prepared for an application filed on May 30 1997, by the Duke Energy Corporation, licensee for the Catawba-Wateree Hydroelectric Project. In its application, the licensee requests permission from the Commission to allow Crescent Resources, Inc. (Crescent) to dredge a 0.69 acre area of lake bottom to improve boat access to previously approved, yet unconstructed, boat slips. About 7,500 cubic yards of lake bottom would be removed. By order dated September 7, 1996, the Commission granted the licensee permission to allow Crescent to construct a boat ramp and 191 boat slips at the subject site to accommodate the residents of Harbour Subdivision. After further evaluation, Crescent determined that dredging is needed to provide adequate boat access to some of the slips. The EA considers the environmental effects of constructing and using the floating slips as well as the proposed dredging activity.

The EA finds that the proposed action would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The EA was written by staff in the Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Copies of the EA can be obtained by calling the Commission's Public Reference Room at (202) 208-1371.

David P. Boergers,*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-15218 Filed 6-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6109-4]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; 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 EPA is planning to submit the following continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and Sewage Sludge Management State Programs, EPA ICR No. 0168.07, and OMB Control No. 2040-0057, expires August 31, 1998. 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 August 10, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Angela Lee, U.S.EPA, Permits Division, Mail Code 4203, 401 M. Street SW, Washington, DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Angela Lee, Phone: (202) 260-6814, Fax: (202) 260-9544, E-mail: lee.angela@epamail.epa.gov. A copy of the ICR can be obtained by writing to the preceding address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are State and Tribal governments and governments of U.S. Territories.

Title: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Sewage Sludge Management State Programs, (OMB Control No. 2040-0057; EPA ICR No. 0168.07) expiring 8/31/98.

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. States that administer NPDES programs are also required to obtain pretreatment authority (authority to require publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) to establish pretreatment programs and to require that indirect dischargers meet pretreatment standards) and authority to issue permits to federal facilities. 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 pretreatment, 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.

The purpose of this ICR is to revise and extend the current recordkeeping and reporting requirements associated with State NPDES and sludge programs. 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 States' 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 States' 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 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 respondent burden for the activities covered in this ICR is estimated to be 1,074,410 hours at a cost of \$32,511,641. EPA estimates an average of 25,688 responses each year. Table 1 shows the annual respondent burden and costs associated with specific program elements.

TABLE 1.—ANNUAL RESPONDENT BURDEN AND COSTS

Reporting requirement/citation	Number of responses	Hours per response	Total hours	Total respondent cost (\$) ¹
State Program Requests:				
Request for NPDES Program Approval	0.67	2,080	1,394	42,170
Request for NPDES Partial Program Approval	1.33	2,080	2,766	83,711
Request for NPDES Program Modification	1.33	250	333	10,061
Request for Program Transfer/Withdrawal	0.00	0	0
Request for NPDES Sludge Program Approval	3.00	750	2,250	68,085
Request for Non-NPDES Sludge Program Approval	6.00	750	4,500	136,170
State Program Implementation:				
Report on Compliance Evaluation	0.00	0	0
Recordkeeping of NPDES Program Information	45.00	50	2,250	68,085
Recordkeeping for Non-NPDES Sludge Program Implementation	12.00	50	600	18,156
Inspection and Investigation of NPDES permittees	23,240	(²)	1,041,998	31,530,853
Inspection of Class I Sludge Management Facilities	0.00	8	0	0
Certification of EPA-Issued Permits	1,849	4	7,396	223,803
State Program Oversight:				
Submittal of NPDES Permit Information	45.00	40	1,813	54,877
Submittal of Sludge Permit Information (40 CFR Sections 123.43 and 123.44(j))	8.00	0	2	75
Submittal of Sludge Permit Information (40 CFR Section 501.16)	12.00	0	3	76
NPDES Quarterly, Semi-Annual, and Annual Reports	225.00	25	5,625	170,213
Semi-Annual Sludge Noncompliance Reports (40 CFR Section 123.45)	16.00	24	384	11,620
Semi-Annual Sludge Noncompliance Reports (40 CFR Section 501.21)	24.00	24	576	17,430
Annual Sludge Noncompliance Reports (40 CFR Section 123.45)	8.00	126	1,008	30,502
Annual Sludge Noncompliance Reports (40 CFR Section 501.21)	12.00	126	1,512	45,753
Total Burden	25,688	1,074,410	32,511,641

¹ Assumes an hourly labor rate of \$30.26.

² Varies.

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 (1) collecting, validating, and verifying information, (2) processing and maintaining information, and (3) 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: June 2, 1998.

Michael B. Cook,

Director, Office of Wastewater Management.

[FR Doc. 98-15323 Filed 6-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6109-6]

Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board, Meeting Date and Agenda

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will convene an open meeting of the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) on July 1, 1998, from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This meeting will be held at the Omni

San Antonio Hotel, 9821 Colonnade Boulevard, San Antonio, Texas 78230.

The agenda will include discussion on the summary of meeting rules, a discussion of the proposed changes to NELAC standards, a report on the resolution of the GLP issue, a discussion of the proposed charter, membership and products of Third Party Assessors Working Group, and a report on EPA issues.

The public is encouraged to attend. Time will be allotted for public comment. Written comments are encouraged and should be directed to Ms. Elizabeth Dutrow; Designated Federal Officer; USEPA; NCERQA (MC-8724R); Washington, DC 20460. If questions arise, please contact Ms. Dutrow by telephone at 202/564-9061, facsimile at 202/565-2441, or e-mail at dutrow.elizabeth@epamail.epa.gov.