

Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EA. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

The EA will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project under these general headings:

- Geology and soils
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands
- Vegetation and wildlife
- Endangered and threatened species
- Public safety
- Land use
- Cultural resources
- Air quality and noise
- Hazardous waste

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be published and mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected landowners, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A comment period will be allotted for review if the EA is published. We will consider all comments on the EA before we make our recommendations to the Commission.

To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section on pages 4 and 5 of this notice.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Columbia. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- A total of about 18.9 acres of forest would be disturbed.
- The project would cross two perennial streams, eight intermittent streams and 4 wetlands.
- Blasting may be required in some areas.

- Three private water wells are located within 150 feet of the construction work area.
- Wells may need to be plugged at Derricks Creek Storage Field.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentor, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative locations/routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your letter to: David P. Boergers, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch, PR-11.2;
- Reference Docket No. CP98-546-000; and
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before July 20, 1998.

If you do not want to send comments at this time but still want to remain on our mailing list, please return the Information Request (appendix 4). If you do not return the Information Request, you will be taken off the mailing list.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor." Intervenor play a more formal role in the process. Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must provide 14 copies of its filings to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's service list for this proceeding. If you want to become an intervenor you must file a motion to intervene according to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) (see appendix 3). Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision. You do not need intervenor status to

have your environmental comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Paul McKee of the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088.

David P. Boergers,

Acting Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6115-9]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Small System Survey

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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 proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Small System Survey, ICR # 1863.01. 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 August 24, 1998.

ADDRESSES: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Office of Ground Water Drinking Water, Mail Code: 4607; 401 M Street, SW; Washington, DC 20460. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the ICR without charge by contacting Kimberly Miller at (202) 260-1891, writing to her at the above address or sending her an e-mail at Miller.KimberlyD@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Cunningham, (202) 260-9535/ (202) 401-6135/Cunningham.Nancy@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are public drinking water systems that are supplied by surface water and serve fewer than 10,000 people.

Title: Small System Survey; EPA ICR No. 1863.01.

Abstract: The Environmental Protection Agency has developed three interrelated Supplemental Surveys as part of an ongoing, scientific research and information collection program

associated with the 1996 Information Collection Rule (ICR) that supports drinking water regulation development. The overall objective of this larger research and information collection program is to provide a sound scientific and technical basis for generating and evaluating strategies for reducing risks associated with microbial pathogens and disinfection byproducts in the US drinking water supply.

EPA must conduct a Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) for the upcoming Stage 2 Long Term Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2) that evaluates the potential impacts on all system sizes. This rule is scheduled for promulgation in May 2002. A major regulatory option being considered is to target treatment for protozoa as a means for controlling not only protozoa but other waterborne pathogens. Therefore, a critical element of the RIA is a characterization of the national distribution of protozoa in source waters for all size systems. Additional data are needed to better characterize these distributions because: (1) the ICR only targets systems serving 100,000 people or more, (2) the ICR protozoa method exhibits low recovery and a high detection limit, and (3) limited data are available for systems serving less than 100,000. As these protozoan concentration estimates are inputs to the Regulatory Impact Analysis for this next phase of rulemaking, the Regulatory Impact Analysis may underestimate the level of treatment required for protozoa removal along with the resulting cost impacts of these rules.

To address these remaining data needs, EPA has developed and funded the ICR Supplemental Surveys. Although the existing ICR method remains available for possible use in these surveys, a key component of the Supplemental Surveys will be reliance upon a new analytical method, Method 1622, to measure *Cryptosporidium* concentrations. Because of its anticipated higher recovery rate and lower detection limit, Method 1622 will provide a more accurate estimate of *Cryptosporidium* concentrations in source waters. The Supplemental Surveys will focus on gathering and analyzing data from a subset of large, medium and small systems. Today's notice focuses on the information collection burden associated with small systems only. The burden associated with the large and medium surveys was covered under the Information Collection Request for the 1996 ICR.

Participation in the Small System Supplemental Surveys will be voluntary. As is appropriate in survey design, the size of the initial sampling list (a simple random sample) will be large enough to allow for some expected declinations. 40 small systems will participate in the survey and will sample twice a month during a 12 month monitoring period. The first monthly analysis will include protozoa (*Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*) and bacterial samples (total coliform, *E. coli*); wet chemistry samples for total organic carbon (TOC), alkalinity, calcium hardness, total hardness, UV254, bromide and ammonia; and water quality parameters including turbidity, pH and temperature. The second monthly analysis will include protozoa and bacterial samples and water quality parameters including turbidity, pH and temperature. Twenty percent of the sample events will collect an additional raw water sample for use as a matrix spike to assess how the water matrices may be affecting method performance. Additional parameters that will be measured during the matrix spike events include dissolved organic carbon (DOC), total suspended solids (TSS), total dissolved solids (TDS) and conductivity.

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 projected total cost for all respondents in the small system survey is \$83,837. This is based on an hourly rate of \$56/hr for a supervisor and \$18/hr for the technician. The total reporting burden for the small system survey is 1280 hours. This figure is based on 40 utilities expending 32 hours each to respond to the survey. For each utility, the time required for all collection events is 2 hrs and 40 minutes per month. The following tasks are included in the burden estimate: reviewing sample procedures, receiving and unpacking sample equipment, sample collection including water quality parameter measurement, packing samples for shipment, completing traffic reports and completing Federal Express airbills. EPA is supplying the sample collection materials and paying the shipping costs. There is a burden of \$114/month for the systems to analyze *E. coli* and total coliform samples. EPA is considering requesting that participating utilities analyze bacterial samples at the laboratories which they usually use, due to the short holding times for these samples. If EPA does not choose to request that participating utilities analyze bacterial samples, then the small utilities would not have the burden of \$114/month to analyze *E. coli* and total coliform samples. There is no total capital and start-up cost component. There are no operation and maintenance costs associated with this survey. 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: June 18, 1998.

Cynthia C. Dougherty,

Director, Office of Groundwater Drinking Water.

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