

Project No.	Project name	Applicant
11563-000	Upper Utica	Northern California Power Agency.

The projects are located in Calaveras, Alpine, and Toulumne Counties, California. The Commission will hold agency and public scoping meetings on July 22, and 23, 1998, for preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the issuance of licenses for the projects.

Scoping Meetings

FERC staff will conduct one agency scoping meeting and two public meetings. The agency scoping meeting will focus on resource agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGO) concerns, while the public scoping meetings are primarily for public input. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend one or all the meetings, and to assist the staff in identifying the scope of the environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA. The times and locations of these meetings are as follows:

Agency Meeting

Wednesday, July 22, 1998, 10:00 am,
Bret Harte High School, Music Room,
364 Murphys Grade Road, Angels
Camp, California

Public Meetings

Wednesday, July 22, 1998 7:00 pm, Bret
Harte High School Music Room, 364
Murphys Grade Road, Angels Camp,
California

Thursday, July 23, 1998, 7:00 pm, Bear
Valley Lodge, 3 Bear Valley Road,
Bear Valley, California

To help focus discussions, we will distribute a Scoping Document (SD1) outlining the subject areas to be addressed at the meetings to the parties on the Commission's mailing list. Copies of the SD1 also will be available at the scoping meetings.

Site Visit

The applicants and Commission staff will conduct project site visits as follows:

Angels and Utica Projects

Tuesday, July 21, 1998 9:00 am.
Meet in front of the Utica Power
Authority Building, 1168 Booster Way,
Angels Camp, California.

Those interested in participating should contact Mr. Dennis Dickman at (209) 754-4230 in advance.

Upper Utica Project

Thursday, July 23, 1998 10:00 am.
Meet in front of the Bear Valley
Lodge, 3 Bear Valley Road, Bear Valley,
California.

Those interested in participating should contact: Mr. Hari Modi at (916) 781-4204 in advance.

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend. All participants are responsible for their own transportation to the sites.

Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the staff will: (1) summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the EA; (2) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantifiable data, on the resources at issue; (3) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EA, including viewpoints in opposition to, or in support of, the staff's preliminary views; (4) determine the relative depth of analysis for issues to be addressed in the EA; and (5) identify resources issues that are of lesser importance, and, therefore, do not require detailed analysis.

Procedures

The meetings will be recorded by a stenographer and will become part of the formal record of the Commission proceeding on the projects. Individuals presenting statements at the meetings will be asked to sign in before the meeting starts and to clearly identify themselves for the record. Speaking time for attendees at the meetings will be determined before the meeting, based on the number of persons wishing to speak and the approximate amount of time available for the session. All speakers will be provided at least 5 minutes to present their views.

Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meetings and to 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, may submit written statements for inclusion in the public record at the meeting. In addition, written scoping comments may be filed with the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E.,

Washington, D.C. 20426, not later than August 24, 1998. All filings should contain an original and eight copies, and must clearly show at the top of the first page the project names(s) and project number(s).

For further information, please contact Hector M. Perez at (202) 219-2843.

David P. Boergers,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-16880 Filed 6-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OW-FRL-6116-6]

Notice of National Strategy for the Development of Regional Nutrient Criteria

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of National Strategy for the Development of Regional Nutrient Criteria, and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces the availability of a National Strategy for the Development of Regional Nutrient Criteria. The Strategy describes the approach the Agency is taking to develop scientific information relating to nutrient overenrichment of the Nation's surface waters and to working with States to assure that State water quality standards reflect this nutrient information.

This Strategy has been through Agency review and external peer review. If you have comments on this document please provide them to the address below. They will be addressed in future updates of the Strategy.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted to the person listed by August 24, 1998.

Comments should be sent to: Nicholas A. Baer, Health and Ecological Criteria Division (4304), Office of Science and Technology, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460.

ADDRESSES: This notice contains a summary of the National Strategy for the Development of Regional Nutrient Criteria. Copies of the complete document or a fact sheet summarizing the Strategy may be obtained from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,

National Center for Environmental Publication and Information, 11029 Kenwood Road, Bldg. 5, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242; fax 1-513-489-8695 or 1-800-490-9198. The fact sheet and the Strategy are also available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom/orderpub.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Cantilli, Health and Ecological Criteria Division (4304), Office of Science and Technology, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460, (202) 260-5546, Fax (202) 260-1036, email:

cantilli.robert@epamail.epa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Nutrients are essential to the health and diversity of surface waters. In excess amounts, however, nutrients cause hypereutrophication resulting in an overabundance of primary producers and decline of the biological community as well as potential human health risks. The National Water Quality Inventory 1996 Report to Congress cites nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) as one of the leading causes of water quality impairment in our Nation's rivers, lakes and estuaries. Nutrients have also been implicated with the large hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico, and *Pfiesteria*-induced fish kills and human health problems in the coastal waters of several East Coast States as well as events in the Gulf States.

Nutrient Strategy

A number of States have identified the specific concentration levels at which nutrient overenrichment occurs in their waters, but many States have not adopted such nutrient criteria into their State water quality standards. As a result, nutrient overenrichment problems are underestimated and the response authorities of the Clean Water Act and other laws are not fully engaged. This Strategy describes the approach EPA will take for development of scientific information relating to nutrients (i.e., water quality criteria pursuant to Section 304(a) of the Clean Water Act) and to working with States to assure adoption of nutrient criteria into State water quality standards pursuant to Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act.

The major elements of this strategy include:

- Use of regional and waterbody-type approach for the development of nutrient water quality criteria.
- Development of technical guidance documents that will serve as "user manuals" for assessing trophic state and

developing nutrient criteria specific to a region and waterbody-type. These guidance documents will establish nutrient water quality criteria in the form of numerical regional target ranges. EPA expects States and Tribes to use these criteria as a basis for the development of nutrient provision of water quality standards. These water quality standards will provide a basis for a range of pollution control activities including NPDES permits and total maximum daily loads (TMDLs).

- Establishment of a EPA National Nutrient Team with Regional Nutrient Coordinators to develop regional databases and to promote State and Tribal involvement.

- Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of nutrient management programs as they are implemented.

Regional and Waterbody-Type Approach

There is a great deal of variability in nutrient levels and nutrient responses throughout the country. This natural variability is due to differences in geology, climate and waterbody type. For these reasons, EPA's custom of developing water quality criteria guidance in the form of single numbers for nationwide application is not appropriate for nutrients. EPA believes that distinct geographic regions and types of aquatic ecosystems need to be evaluated differently and that criteria specific to those regions and ecosystems need to be developed.

Waterbody-Type Technical Guidance

An essential technical element of this strategy will be waterbody-type guidance documents describing the techniques for assessing the trophic state of a waterbody and methodologies for developing regional nutrient criteria. In addition, each technical document will provide criteria guidance under section 304(a) of the Clean Water Act in the form of Regional numerical target ranges for phosphorus, nitrogen, and other nutrient endpoints. EPA expects States and Tribes to use these target ranges as the basis for adopting nutrient criteria into water quality standards in the absence of more site-specifically developed water quality criteria and standards. EPA intends to use State databases to develop these regional target ranges, supplemented with new regional case studies and demonstration projects to provide additional information. EPA intends to complete these technical guidance documents by the end of the year 2001.

Revision of State Water Quality Standards

As technical guidance is developed and regional nutrient ranges are established, EPA expects States and Tribes to revise water quality standards to include appropriate regional nutrient criteria by waterbody type. Once adopted as part of State or Tribal water quality standards, the nutrient values become the basis for making many management decisions to reduce the overenrichment of our nation's waters, e.g., through the TMDL and NPDES permitting processes. These values used together with best management practices (BMPs) and other management techniques should form the basis of a State management program for nutrients.

EPA expects all States and Tribes to adopt and implement numerical nutrient criteria into their water quality standards by December 31, 2003. States and Tribes may accomplish this by developing their own regional criteria values in watersheds where applicable data are available or by using the EPA target nutrient ranges. EPA will review the new or revised standards under Section 303(c)(3) of the Clean Water Act. If EPA disapproves the new or revised standard submitted by a State or Tribe (e.g., because EPA determines that it is not scientifically defensible or is not protective of designated uses), or if EPA determines that a new or revised nutrient standard is necessary for a State or Tribe (e.g., because EPA determines that the State or Tribe has not demonstrated reasonable progress toward developing numerical nutrient standards), EPA will initiate rulemaking to promulgate nutrient criteria appropriate to the region and waterbody types. Any resulting water quality standard would apply until the State or Tribe adopts and EPA approves a revised standard.

National and Regional Nutrient Teams

EPA will provide additional technical and financial assistance to the Regions and States to accelerate the development of nutrient criteria. This will include the establishment of a National Nutrient Team which includes coordinators from each EPA Region. The Regional Coordinator will foster the development and implementation of State projects, databases, nutrient criteria and standards, and the award of financial assistance to States and Tribes to support these endeavors. Each coordinator will be responsible for nutrient management activities for her/his Region and its member States and Tribes consistent with decisions of the

national nutrient program. It is expected that each Regional coordinator will form their own teams which include State and Tribal representatives and other federal and local representatives, as needed, to develop nutrient databases and nutrient target ranges.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Once regulatory controls are in place, EPA and the States/Tribes will need to evaluate their effectiveness. The databases and monitoring systems, together with the derived criteria, should be used to assess actual progress toward eliminating overenrichment conditions.

Dated: June 18, 1998.

Robert Perciasepe,

Assistant Administrator for Water.

[FR Doc. 98-16941 Filed 6-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Notice of Public Information Collections; Comments Requested

June 18, 1998.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) that does not display a valid control number. Comments are requested concerning whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimates; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The FCC is reviewing the following information collection requirements for possible 3-year extension under delegated authority 5 CFR 1320, authority delegated to the Commission

by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: Written comments should be submitted on or before August 24, 1998. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all comments to Jerry Cowden Conway, Federal Communications Commission, Room 234, 1919 M St., N.W., Washington, DC 20554 or via internet to jcowden@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or copies of the information collections contact Jerry Cowden at 202-418-0447 or via internet at jcowden@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Approval Number: 3060-0228.

Title: Section 80.59 Compulsory ship station.

Form No.: N/A.

Type of Review: Extension of existing collection.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit, individuals or households, non-profit institutions, state and local governments.

Number of Respondents: 200.

Estimated Time Per Response: 2 hours.

Total Annual Burden: 400 hours.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Total Annual Cost: 0.

Needs and Uses: The requirement contained in this rule section is necessary to implement the provisions of section 362(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, which permits the Commission to waive the required annual inspection of certain oceangoing ships for up to 30 days beyond the expiration date of a vessel's radio safety certificate, upon a finding that the public interest would be served. The information is used by the Engineer in Charge of FCC Field Offices to determine the eligibility of a vessel for a waiver of the required annual radio station inspection.

OMB Approval Number: 3060-0265.

Title: Section 80.868 Card of instructions.

Form No.: N/A.

Type of Review: Extension of existing collection.

Respondents: Businesses or other for-profit, state, local or tribal government, not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 3,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 1 hour per response.

Total Annual Burden: 300 hours.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Needs and Uses: The recordkeeping requirement contained in this rule section is necessary to insure that radiotelephone distress procedures are readily available to the radio operator on board certain vessels (300-1600 gross tons) required by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, or the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea to be equipped with a radiotelephone station. The information is used by a vessel radio operator during an emergency situation, and is designed to assist the radio operator to utilize proper distress procedures during a time when he or she may be subject to considerable stress or confusion.

Federal Communications Commission.

William F. Caton,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-16829 Filed 6-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Sunshine Act Meeting

Pursuant to the provisions of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" (5 U.S.C. 552b), notice is hereby given that at 10:31 a.m. on Monday, June 22, 1998, the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation met in closed session to consider matters relating to the Corporation's corporate activities.

In calling the meeting, the Board determined, on motion of Vice Chairman Andrew C. Hove, Jr., seconded by Director Julie L. Williams (Acting Comptroller of the Currency), and concurred in by Chairman Donna Tanoue, that Corporation business required its consideration of the matters on less than seven days' notice to the public; that no earlier notice of the meeting was practicable; that the public interest did not require consideration of the matters in a meeting open to public observation; and that the matters could be considered in a closed meeting by authority of subsections (c)(9)(B) and (c)(10) of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" (5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B) and (c)(10)).

The meeting was held in the Board Room of the FDIC Building located at 550-17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Dated: June 22, 1998.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Valerie J. Best,

Assistant Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-17024 Filed 6-22-98; 4:57 am]

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