

*Extensions of Expiration Dates*

EPA ICR No. 1679.02; Federal Standards of Marine Tank Vessel Loading and Unloading Operations and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Marine Tank Vessel Loading and Unloading Operation; in 40 CFR Part 63, Subpart Y; OMB No. 2060-0289; on 08/06/98 OMB extended the expiration date through 10/31/98.

EPA ICR No. 1284.04; NSPS for the Polymeric Coating of Supporting Substrates Facilities; in 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart VVV; OMB No. 2060-0181; on 08/10/98 OMB extended the expiration date through 02/28/99.

Dated: August 27, 1998.

**Joseph Retzer,**

*Director, Regulatory Information Division.*

[FR Doc. 98-23686 Filed 9-2-98; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OW-FRL-6155-2]

### Notice of availability of the Water Quality Criteria and Standards Plan—Priorities for the Future

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of, and request for comment on, the Water Quality Criteria and Standards Plan—Priorities for the Future.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces the availability of a plan, entitled the Water Quality Criteria and Standards Plan—Priorities for the Future. The Plan presents a vision and strategy to enhance and improve water quality criteria and standards programs across the country. The Plan describes seven new criteria and standards program initiatives that EPA, in partnership with the States and Tribes, will undertake or complete over the next ten years. The Plan briefly describes the water quality issues and concerns that the new criteria initiatives will address. For each initiative, the Plan explains the key objective(s) to be accomplished and the critical activities EPA is planning to undertake to achieve these objectives.

**DATES:** If you have comments on the Plan please provide them to the address listed below postmarked on or before October 16, 1998. EPA will consider your comments while preparing the final Plan this fall.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to: Water Quality Criteria and Standards

Plan; Attn: Plan Comments; 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.

This notice contains a brief summary of the Water Quality Criteria and Standards Plan. Copies of the complete Plan, or a fact sheet summarizing the Plan 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. Copies may also be ordered from the Office of Water Resource Center by calling (202) 260-7786. The fact sheet and the Plan are also available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/ost/standards/quality.html>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

William F. Swietlik; 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) 260-9569; Fax (202) 260-1036; email: [swietlik.william@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:swietlik.william@epamail.epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Plan supports the Clean Water Action Plan announced by President Clinton in February 1998. Many of the action items to be accomplished under the Action Plan rely on a strong water quality standards program. Strong water quality standards provide a foundation for the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting, nonpoint source control, wetlands protection, and other water resources management efforts.

A key action item in the Clean Water Action Plan is the reduction of nutrient over-enrichment. The Water Quality Criteria and Standards Plan highlights the criteria and standards activities that need to be accomplished to achieve this goal. The National Nutrient Strategy, recently released by EPA, explains in detail the approach to development of nutrient criteria and standards.

The Water Quality Criteria and Standards Plan also complements the Advance Notice of Proposed Rule Making (ANPRM) for the Water Quality Standards Regulations at 40 CFR Part 131, published in the **Federal Register** on July 7, 1998. The Plan describes the new criteria initiatives that EPA will undertake, and the ANPRM discusses and solicits public comment on how these scientific and technical improvements, along with other

standards changes, should best be implemented in water quality standards programs by the States and Tribes.

The Water Quality Criteria and Standards Plan describes water quality criteria and standards initiatives in the following seven areas:

1. Maintaining and strengthening the existing *Ambient Water Quality Criteria* for surface waters.
2. Developing *Nutrient Criteria* and assessment methods to better protect aquatic life and human health.
3. Developing criteria for *Microbial Pathogens* to better protect human health during water recreation.
4. Completing the development of *Biocriteria* as an improved basis for aquatic life protection.
5. Developing improved *TMDLs and Modeling* to better translate water quality standards into implementable control strategies.
6. Evaluating possible new initiatives for *Sedimentation, Flow, and Wildlife*.
7. Ensuring *Implementation* of these new initiatives and improvements by EPA in partnership with the States and Tribes.

The national surface water quality protection program is at an important juncture. The initiatives described in the Plan are needed to better protect aquatic life and the recreational uses of the Nation's waters. Over the past two decades, State and Tribal water quality standards and water quality-based management approaches have relied upon aquatic life use designations and protective criteria based primarily upon narrative, chemical-specific, and whole effluent toxicity methodologies. Using these approaches, outstanding progress has been made. However, not all of the Nation's waters have achieved the Clean Water Act goal of "fishable and swimmable", and significant water pollution problems still exist. Approximately 40 percent of the Nation's assessed waters still do not meet water quality goals and about half of the Nation's 2000 major watersheds have water quality problems.

Given these facts, there is a critical need for improved water quality standards and a set of tools to implement those standards. Adding nutrient criteria and biological criteria to the water quality criteria and standards program ensures further improvements in maintaining and restoring aquatic life. Improved human health criteria will better protect against bioaccumulative pollutants and new microbial pathogen controls will better protect human health (especially that of children) during water related recreation. Better tools also are needed for controlling excessive sedimentation,

flow alterations and for protecting wildlife. The new initiatives discussed in the Plan also will help to promote water resources management on a watershed basis.

Dated: August 24, 1998.

**J. Charles Fox,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Water.*

[FR Doc. 98-23688 Filed 9-2-98; 8:45 am]

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## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### Federal Open Market Committee; Domestic Policy Directive of June 30- July 1, 1998.

In accordance with § 271.5 of its rules regarding availability of information (12 CFR part 271), there is set forth below the domestic policy directive issued by the Federal Open Market Committee at its meeting held on June 30-July 1, 1998.<sup>1</sup> The directive was issued to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as follows:

The information reviewed at this meeting suggests that the expansion in economic activity has slowed considerably after a very rapid advance in the first quarter. Nonfarm payroll employment registered another substantial increase in May, and the civilian unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.3 percent. Industrial output picked up in recent months after weakening early this year; however, a strike at General Motors likely depressed output substantially in June. Although retail sales posted large gains in April and May, overall consumer spending appears to have grown less rapidly in the second quarter than in the first. Residential sales have remained exceptionally strong, but housing starts and building permits slipped back in the spring, on a seasonally adjusted basis, from a sharply increased first-quarter level. Available indicators suggest that growth of business fixed investment also is slowing after a surge earlier in the year. Business inventory accumulation appears to have moderated in April from an extraordinarily rapid rate in the first quarter. The nominal deficit on U.S. trade in goods and services continued to widen in April. Developments in the food and energy sectors contributed to

a slightly faster advance in consumer prices in May.

Most short-term interest rates have changed little since the meeting on May 19, but longer-term rates have declined somewhat. Share prices in U.S. equity markets remained volatile and changes in major indexes were mixed on balance over the intermeeting period. In foreign exchange markets, the trade-weighted value of the dollar rose sharply through mid-June in terms of other major currencies, declined more recently, but is up somewhat on net since the May meeting; the fluctuations in the average value of the dollar in terms of these major currencies were largely related to movements against the Japanese yen. The dollar has risen further against the currencies of key emerging market economies, particularly some of those in Asia.

Growth of M2 and M3 slowed in the second quarter, but remained fairly robust. For the year through June, both aggregates rose at rates well above the Committee's ranges for the year. Expansion of total domestic nonfinancial debt appears to have moderated somewhat after a pickup earlier in the year.

The Federal Open Market Committee seeks monetary and financial conditions that will foster price stability and promote sustainable growth in output. In furtherance of these objectives, the Committee reaffirmed at this meeting the ranges it had established in February for growth of M2 and M3 of 1 to 5 percent and 2 to 6 percent respectively, measured from the fourth quarter of 1997 to the fourth quarter of 1998. The range for growth of total domestic nonfinancial debt was maintained at 3 to 7 percent for the year. For 1999, the Committee agreed on tentative ranges for monetary growth, measured from the fourth quarter of 1998 to the fourth quarter of 1999, of 1 to 5 percent for M2 and 2 to 6 percent for M3. The Committee provisionally set the associated range for growth of total domestic nonfinancial debt at 3 to 7 percent for 1999. The behavior of the monetary aggregates will continue to be evaluated in the light of progress toward price level stability, movements in their velocities, and developments in the economy and financial markets.

In the implementation of policy for the immediate future, the Committee seeks conditions in reserve markets consistent with maintaining the federal funds rate at an average of around 5-1/2 percent. In the context of the Committee's long-run objectives for price stability and sustainable economic growth, and giving careful consideration to economic, financial, and monetary

developments, a somewhat higher federal funds rate would or a slightly lower federal funds rate might be acceptable in the intermeeting period. The contemplated reserve conditions are expected to be consistent with moderate growth in M2 and M3 over coming months.

By order of the Federal Open Market Committee, August 21, 1998.

**Donald L. Kohn,**

*Secretary, Federal Open Market Committee.*

[FR Doc. 98-23747 Filed 9-2-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

## GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

[OMB Control No. 3090-0246]

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request Entitled Packing List Clause

**AGENCY:** Office of Acquisition Policy, GSA.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for an extension to a previously approved OMB Clearance (3090-0246).

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Office of Acquisition Policy has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve an extension of a previously approved information collection requirement concerning Packing List clause.

**DATES:** Comment Due Date: November 2, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, should be submitted to: Edward Springer, GSA Desk Officer, Room 3235, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503, and to Marjorie Ashby, General Services Administration (MVP), 1800 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20405.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Al Matera, Office of GSA Acquisition Policy (202) 501-1224.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### A. Purpose

The GSA is requesting the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to review and approve information collection, 3090-0246, concerning Packing List clause. A uniquely numbered Government credit card has been authorized for making payment for orders under \$25,000 placed against certain schedule contracts. Acceptance of the card is not mandatory. In order to verify receipt of orders placed orally

<sup>1</sup> Copies of the Minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee meeting of June 30-July 1, 1998, which include the domestic policy directive issued at that meeting, are available upon request to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, D.C. 20551. The minutes are published in the Federal Reserve Bulletin and in the Board's annual report.