

and organizations associated with industry, environmental interest groups, and State, Tribal, and local governments. EPA will reach out to interested stakeholders primarily by attending and, where possible, participating in meetings and conferences sponsored by members of those communities, as well as through its Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/ost>) and less formal meetings.

The Agency has already launched this dialogue through discussions with the Effluent Guidelines Task Force, whose membership reflects a variety of stakeholder viewpoints. Members of the Effluent Guidelines Task Force have also agreed to assist EPA in this stakeholder outreach effort.

At this point, EPA envisions that this stakeholder outreach will culminate in a one or two day highly focused national meeting of interested stakeholders this winter. In addition to a discussion of factors for industry selection criteria and information sources by which to evaluate those factors, EPA also seeks a discussion on whether EPA's procedures for implementing the requirements of section 304(m), including the process for selecting industrial categories for new or revised effluent guidelines, should be codified in federal regulations. Relevant to that discussion will be comments EPA received on the June 16, 2000 notice that suggested that not only are such regulations not warranted but also they could be counter-productive to efficient Agency management of its resources and could restrict the Agency's ability to consider other relevant information in the selection process. EPA plans to discuss this further with as many stakeholders as possible. The Effluent Guidelines Task Force has indicated its willingness to work with EPA in conducting stakeholder outreach and refining our 304(m) planning process.

Finally, as noted in the June 16, 2000 notice, EPA plans to issue a final section 304(m) plan in February 2002. EPA will use the outcome of the stakeholder outreach effort in developing this plan.

VIII. Public Comments Received on the June 16, 2000 Notice

EPA accepted public comments on the Proposed Plan through July 17, 2000. The Agency received comments from a variety of commenters including industry and agriculture, environmental groups, States, academia, and engineering consulting firms. Many of the comments received have been discussed in the text of today's notice. The administrative record for today's notice includes a complete set of all of

the comments submitted as well as the Agency's responses.

IX. Economic Impact Assessment; Executive Order 12866

Today's notice announces a plan for the review and revision of existing effluent guidelines and for the selection of priority industries for new regulations. This notice is not a "rule" subject to 5 U.S.C. 553 and does not establish any requirements; therefore, EPA has not prepared an economic impact assessment. EPA will provide economic impact analyses, regulatory flexibility analyses, or regulatory impact assessments, as appropriate, for all of the future effluent guideline rule makings developed by the Agency.

Under Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993), the Agency must determine whether the regulatory action is "significant" and, therefore, subject to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review and the requirements of the Executive Order. The Order defines "significant regulatory action" as one that is likely to result in a rule that may:

- (1) have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more or adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities;
- (2) create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency;
- (3) materially alter the budgetary impact of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof; or
- (4) raise novel legal or policy issues arising out of legal mandates, the President's priorities, or the principles set forth in the Executive Order.

It has been determined that this plan is not a "significant regulatory action" under the terms of Executive Order 12866 and is therefore not subject to OMB review.

Dated: August 24, 2000.

J. Charles Fox,

Assistant Administrator for Water.

[FR Doc. 00-22383 Filed 8-30-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6861-7]

Final Reissuance of General NPDES Permits (GP) for Alaskan Mechanical Placer Mining (Permit Number AKG-37-0000) and Alaskan Medium-Size Suction Dredging (Permit Number AKG-37-1000)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10.

ACTION: Final notice of reissuance of two general permits.

SUMMARY: On June 30, 1999, two general permits regulating the activities of mechanical placer mining and suction dredge mining for gold placer mining operations in the state of Alaska expired. On January 14, 2000, EPA proposed to reissue these two general permits. There was a 60 day comment period and public hearings were held in Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska.

During the comment period, EPA received comments on the mechanical general permit regarding Notice of Intent (NOI) submittal, annual report submittal and monitoring frequency. A miner must submit an NOI to be covered by the GPs. EPA has changed the date that annual reports are due from November 30 for the previous mining season, to January 31 for the previous calendar year. EPA did not make any changes in monitoring frequency from those in the proposed permit.

EPA received similar comments as those described above for the medium-size suction dredge general permit. The responses outlined in the previous paragraph also apply to the medium-size suction dredge permit. EPA received additional comments relating to suction dredging including comments on suction dredge spacing, the definition of dredging operations, and the use of winches. EPA did not change the required spacing between suction dredge operations, but did define a dredging operation as one medium-size dredge or one medium-size dredge accompanied by one small (four inch or less intake) dredge. EPA also specifies how to determine if it is "apparent" that an operation has occurred nearby. EPA clarified that the prohibition on winches is on motorized winches, not on hand winches.

Other comments were received and a Response to Comments was prepared for each general permit.

At the time EPA proposed these general permits, EPA also gave notice that the extended coverage under the previous general permits would expire with the reissuance of the new general

permits. EPA has determined that the extended coverage will expire either when a facility is authorized under the new general permits or 150 days after the effective date of the new general permits, whichever is earlier.

DATES: The general permits will be effective October 2, 2000. For those facilities not seeking authorization under the new general permits, extended coverage under the previous general permits will expire on February 27, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the General Permits and Responses to Comments are available upon request. Written requests may be submitted to EPA, Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue OW-130, Seattle, WA 98101. Electronic requests may be mailed to: washington.audrey@epa.gov or godsey.cindi@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The General Permits, Fact Sheets and Response to Comments may be found on the Region 10 website at www.epa.gov/r10earth/offices/water.htm under the NPDES Permits section. Requests by telephone may be made to Audrey Washington at (206) 553-0523 or to Cindi Godsey at (907) 271-6561.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866: The Office of Management and Budget has exempted this action from the review requirements of Executive Order 12866 pursuant to Section 6 of that order.

The state of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), has certified that the subject discharges comply with the applicable provisions of Sections 208(e), 301, 302, 306 and 307 of the Clean Water Act.

The state of Alaska, Office of Management and Budget, Division of Governmental Coordination (ADGC), has conducted a review for consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) and has agreed with EPA's determination that the general permits are consistent with the ACMP.

Regulatory Flexibility Act: Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, a Federal agency must prepare an initial regulatory flexibility analysis "for any proposed rule" for which the agency "is required by section 553 of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), or any other law, to publish general notice of proposed rulemaking." The RFA exempts from this requirement any rule that the issuing agency certifies "will not, if promulgated, have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities." EPA has concluded that NPDES general permits are permits, not rulemakings, under the APA and thus not subject to APA

rulemaking requirements or the RFA. Notwithstanding that general permits are not subject to the RFA, EPA has determined that this general permit, as issued, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Dated: August 23, 2000.

Randall F. Smith,

Director, Office of Water, Region 10, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

[FR Doc. 00-22374 Filed 8-30-00; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission, Comments Requested

August 23, 2000.

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 information collection, 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 (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) 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.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted on or before October 30, 2000. 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 Les Smith, Federal Communications Commissions, 445 12th Street, SW.,

Room 1-A804, Washington, DC 20554 or via the Internet to lesmith@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or copies of the information collections contact Les Smith at (202) 418-0217 or via the Internet at lesmith@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Approval Number: 3060-0934.

Title: Application for Equipment Authorization—2.960, 2.962, 68.160 and 68.162 Form FCC TCB 731.

Form No.: FCC TCB 731.

Type of Review: Extension of currently approved collection.

Respondents: Business or other for profit.

Number of Respondents: 1,600.

Estimated Time Per Response: 4 hours.

Total Annual Burden: 6,400 hours.

Total Annual Cost: \$7,000 per respondent.

Needs and Uses: Commission rules require approval prior to marketing of equipment regulated under certain Part 15 and Part 18 rule sections, based on showing of compliance with technical standards established in the Rules for each device operated under the applicable Rule part. Rules governing certain equipment operating the licensed service also require equipment authorization as established in the procedural Rules in Part 2 and Part 68. The Commission adopted new rules to streamline its equipment authorization program by allowing Telecommunications Certification Bodies to authorize equipment in a Report and Order, adopted December 1998, Gen. Doc. 98-68. Such a showing of compliance aids in controlling potential interference to radio communications, and the data gathered, as is necessary may be used for investigating complaints of harmful interference. Collection of this information is approved under OMB#3060-0057. Commission Rules established in Docket 98-68 established a framework for allowing private sector approval of equipment that is currently approved as noted above. In addition, the rule changes established guidelines for implementation of Mutual Recognition Agreements and Arrangements with foreign trade partners. To allow for private sector and foreign approval of equipment for marketing, the Commission made provisions to evaluate the recommendations of an accrediting body in a given country as to the competency of a *Telecommunications Certification Body* (TCB) to approve equipment for marketing. Once approved by the accrediting body, and