

(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 estimated annual average burden for the 55 respondents totals 71,049 hours for this information collection. The average annual reporting burden varies depending on the size of the respondent and the category of the information collection. The frequency of response varies from 1 time to once every five years, to case-by-case, depending on the category. 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 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.

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.

Please send comments regarding these matters, or any other aspect of information collection, including suggestions for redoing the burden, to the address listed above.

Dated: December 14, 1998.

Robert H. Wayland, III

Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6207-5]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Approval of State Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs

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 continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Approval of State Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs, EPA ICR Number 1569, and OMB Control Number 2040-0153, expiring on January 31, 1999. 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 February 22, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to, and copies of the ICR may be obtained without charge from, the Nonpoint Source Control Branch, Assessment and Watershed Protection Division (4503-F), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dov Weitman at (202) 260-7088 (phone), (202) 260-7024 (facsimile), weitman.dov@epamail.epa.gov (E-Mail); or Stacie Craddock at (202) 260-3788 (phone), (202) 260-1977 (facsimile), craddock.stacie@epamail.epa.gov (E-Mail).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are 24 states and 5 territories with conditionally approved Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs (CZARA section 6217).

Title: Approval of Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs, (OMB Control No. 2040-0153; EPA ICR No. 1569) expiring January 31, 1999.

Abstract: Under the provisions of national Program Development and Approval Guidance implementing section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 (CZARA) which was jointly developed and published by EPA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 24 coastal

states and 5 coastal territories with Federally approved Coastal Zone Management Programs have developed and submitted to EPA and NOAA Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Programs. All the submitted programs have been conditionally approved by EPA and NOAA. The conditional approvals will require states and territories to submit additional information in order to obtain final program approval. Recent administrative changes mutually agreed to by states, territories, EPA and NOAA are expected to expedite the final approval process. CZARA section 6712 requires states and territories to obtain final approval of their Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Programs in order to retain their full share of funding available to them under section 319 of the Clean Water Act and section 306 of the Coastal Zone Management Act. 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 original Information Collection Request estimated that the reporting burden to develop and obtain approval of Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs under the national Program Development and Approval Guidance would average 1,874 hours per respondent over the 3-year term of the collection effort. Because all affected coastal states and territories have completed development and obtained conditional approval of their Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs and now need only to remove the existing conditions to obtain final

approval, EPA estimates that the remaining reporting burden will be approximately 20 percent of the original burden estimate, or approximately 375 hours per respondent annualized to a burden of 125 hours for each of the 29 respondents. 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 information.

Dated: December 16, 1998.

Robert H. Wayland III,

Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds.

[FR Doc. 98-34041 Filed 12-22-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6207-6]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; comment request; National Estuary Program

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 continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): National Estuary Program, EPA ICR Number 1500.03, OMB Control Number 2040-0138, expiring March 31, 1999. Before submitting the renewal ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the information collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before February 22, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the Coastal Management Branch; Oceans and Coastal Protection Division (4504F); U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;

401 M Street, SW; Washington, DC 20460. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the ICR without charge by contacting the person identified below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Darrell Brown at 202/260-6502 (phone); 202/260-9960 (facsimile); brown.darrell@epa.gov (E-mail) or Betsy Salter at 202/260-6466 (phone); 202/260-9960 (facsimile); salter.betsy@epa.gov (E-mail).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities affected by this action are those state or local agencies or nongovernmental organizations that receive grants under section 320 of the Clean Water Act, the National Estuary Program. EPA provides grants to these entities to support 28 National Estuary Programs around the country and in Puerto Rico. Each entity receiving such a grant must submit an annual workplan that describes the projects and activities to be carried out using the section 320 funds and that documents the source of the 25% non-federal matching funds required by section 320.

Title: National Estuary Program (ICR #1500; OMB Control Number 2040-0138) expiring March 31, 1999.

Abstract:

Annual Workplans—The National Estuary Program (NEP) involves collecting information from the state or local agency or nongovernmental organizations that receive funds under section 320 of the Clean Water Act. The regulation requiring this information is found at 40 CFR Part 35. Prospective grant recipients seek funding to develop or oversee and coordinate implementation of comprehensive conservation and management plans (CCMP) for estuaries of national significance. In order to receive funds, grantees must submit an annual workplan to EPA. The workplan consists of two parts: (a) progress on projects funded previously; and (b) new projects proposed with dollar amounts and completion dates. The workplan is reviewed by EPA and also serves as the scope of work for the grant agreement. EPA also uses these workplans to track performance of each of the 28 estuary programs currently in the NEP.

Biennial Reviews—EPA provides funding to NEPs to support long-term implementation of CCMPs if such programs pass a biennial review process. Biennial reviews are used to determine progress each NEP is making in implementing its CCMP and achieving environmental results. In addition to evaluating progress, the results are used to identify areas of weakness each NEP should address for

long-term success in protecting and restoring their estuaries. EPA will also compile successful tools and approaches as well as lessons learned from all biennial reviews to transfer to the NEPs and other watershed programs. For this ICR cycle, biennial reviews will be required of the first 17 NEPs in FY1999 and the first 21 NEPs in FY2001. Biennial reviews are required in addition to annual workplans.

The EPA is requesting comments on:

(i) 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) 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) the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) how to 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 estimated burden for the 28 NEPs totals about 18,000 hours for Fiscal Years 1999, 2000 and 2001, or about 6,000 hours/year on average. Total hours are based on the following estimates:

100 hours/annual workplan * 28 NEPs
= 2,800 hours/year * 3 years = 8,400 hours

250 hours/biennial review * 17 NEPs =
4,250 hours/FY1999

250 hours/biennial review * 21 NEPs =
5,250 hours/FY2001

These estimates include the time needed to review instructions, search existing information sources, gather and maintain information needed, and to analyze the information and prepare the annual workplans or biennial review reports.

No person is required to respond to a collection of information unless the request displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are displayed in 40 CFR Part 9.

Please send comments regarding these matters, or any other aspect of information collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the address listed above.