

Dated: October 7, 1999.

Michael S. HacsKaylo,
Administrator.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6465-8]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Title: Environmental Radiation Ambient Monitoring System (ERAMS); Subject: Environmental Monitoring

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that EPA is planning to submit the following continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Environmental Radiation Ambient Monitoring System (ERAMS); EPA ICR No. 0877.06; OMB Control No. 2060-0015; expiration date, January 2000. 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 December 27, 1999.

ADDRESSES: National Air and Radiation Environmental Laboratory, 540 South Morris Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama 36115-2601. Limited number of hard copies available at this address. ICR available electronically at www.epa.gov/narel.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles M. Petko; TEL (334) 270-3411; FAX (334) 270-3454; and E-MAIL petko.charles@epa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Sample collectors.

Title: Environmental Radiation Ambient Monitoring System (ERAMS); OMB Control No. 2060-0015; EPA ICR No. 0877.06; expiration date January 2000.

Abstract: The Environmental Radiation Ambient Monitoring System (ERAMS) is a national network of stations collecting sampling media that include air, precipitation, drinking water, surface water, and milk. Samples are sent to EPA's National Air and Radiation Environmental Laboratory (NAREL) in Montgomery, AL, where

they are analyzed for radioactivity. ERAMS provides emergency response and ambient monitoring information regarding levels of environmental radiation across the nation. All stations, usually manned by state and local personnel, participate in ERAMS voluntarily. Station operators complete information forms that accompany the samples. The forms request descriptive information related to sample collection, *e.g.*, sample type, sample location, length of sampling period, and volume represented. 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 annual public reporting and record keeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.37 hours per response. 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.

Respondents/Affected Entities: Sample collectors, who are usually employed by state or, in a few cases, local government.

Estimated number of respondents: 313.

Frequency of Response: from twice weekly to four times annually, depending upon type of media being sampled.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 9201.8 hours.

Estimated Total Annualized Cost Burden: \$178,515.20 (total refers to labor costs only).

Dated: October 22, 1999.

John G. Griggs,

Acting Director, NAREL.

[FR Doc. 99-28217 Filed 10-27-99; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6465-5]

CWA 303(d): Proposed Withdrawal of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Copper in the Arthur Kill and the Kill Van Kull and Proposed Establishment of a TMDL for Nickel in the Hackensack River

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA has reached the following conclusions regarding certain segments of the New York-New Jersey Harbor: the applicable water quality standard for copper in the Arthur Kill and the Kill Van Kull is not likely to be exceeded (*i.e.*, the waters are not water quality-limited for copper) and, therefore, no TMDL is necessary for copper; and the Hackensack River below the Oradell Dam is water quality-limited for nickel.

Therefore, as part of this action, EPA is proposing to establish a TMDL for nickel.

EPA is hereby issuing public notice on its: proposed withdrawal of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for copper in the Arthur Kill and the Kill Van Kull; and, proposed establishment of a TMDL for nickel in the Hackensack River below the Oradell Dam.

DATES: Comments on the proposed action must be submitted to EPA on or before November 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the relevant supporting documents may be obtained by writing to Ms. Rosella O'Connor, Fate & Effects Team, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, 290 Broadway, 24th Floor, New York, New