

**23. Columbia Falls Aluminum Company, PPL Montana LLC, Alcoa, Inc. and Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation**

[Docket No. ER00-3210-000]

Take notice that on July 19, 2000, Columbia Falls Aluminum Company, PPL Montana LLC, Alcoa, Inc., and Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation, tendered for filing member signature pages of the Northeast Regional Transmission Association Agreement and also a letter stating that Northwest Power Enterprises Inc., relinquishes its membership in the Northwest Regional Transmission Association.

*Comment date:* August 9, 2000, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

**Standard Paragraphs**

E. Any person desiring to be heard or to protest such filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of these filings are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection. This filing may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

**David P. Boergers,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-19058 Filed 7-27-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Western Area Power Administration**

**Notice of Floodplain Involvement for the Blythe Energy Project**

**AGENCY:** Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of Floodplain Involvement.

**SUMMARY:** Western Area Power Administration (Western) has been approached by Wisvest Corporation, a non-regulated subsidiary of Wisconsin Energy Corporation, to interconnect the

power to be generated by the Blythe Energy Project (Project) to Western's transmission system. The Project, as proposed, is a 520-megawatt (MW) natural gas-fired thermal power plant that is intended to serve competitive regional markets in southern California and Arizona. The Project is intended as a "merchant plant," which means that the Project would be independent of other generators and that the power generated would serve the open market rather than any particular utility or load.

The Project would occupy approximately 15 acres of a 76-acre parcel of private land located just east of the Blythe Airport. Water for cooling and steam generation would be obtained from groundwater wells at approximately 2,200 gallons per minute. The plant would be a "zero discharge" facility, meaning that there would be no wastewater discharge from the plant. Instead, wastewater would be handled by evaporation ponds on site. Natural gas would be fed to the plant by new pipelines that would tap existing major interstate gas pipelines in the vicinity. One option is to pipe gas from the Arizona side of the Colorado River through a new 11.5-mile pipeline. A review of the flood hazard maps for Riverside County, California, indicates that the plant site would reside outside the 100-year floodplain of the Colorado River and McCoy Wash, a nearby intermittent drainage. However, the proposed pipeline route would cross the Colorado River and the Palo Verde Valley just south of the City of Blythe. The crossing of the Colorado River would involve horizontal directional, or microbore drilling, which would place the pipeline under the River. This technique would be used for any crossings of irrigation canals and drains as the pipeline crosses the Valley.

In accordance with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Floodplain/Wetland Review Requirements (10 CFR part 1022), Western will prepare a floodplain assessment and will perform the proposed actions in a manner so as to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplain. The floodplain assessment will be included in the Environmental Assessment/Staff Assessment being prepared jointly by Western and the California Energy Commission on the project, in accordance with the provisions of the DOE National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures (10 CFR part 1021).

**DATES:** Comments on the proposed floodplain action are due to the address below no later than August 25, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to Mr. Nick Chevance, Environmental Project Manager, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 281213, Lakewood, CO, 80228-8213, FAX: 720-962-2630, email [chevance@wapa.gov](mailto:chevance@wapa.gov); or Mr. John Holt, Environment Manager, Desert Southwest Customer Service Region, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005-6457, FAX: 602-352-2630, email [holt@wapa.gov](mailto:holt@wapa.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For Project information contact: Mr. Nick Chevance, telephone 720-962-7254, or Mr. John Holt, telephone 602-352-2592, at the addresses and faxes listed above. For further information on DOE Floodplain/Wetlands Environmental Review Requirement contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, NEPA Policy and Compliance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585, telephone 202-586-4600 or 800-472-2756.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proposed Blythe Energy Project would involve construction activities within the floodplain of the Colorado River, including the construction of the natural gas pipeline and the microbore drilling. The floodplain assessment would examine the impacts of this construction on the Colorado River floodplain. The Blythe Energy Project would involve the floodplain in both Riverside County, California, Townships 6 and 7 South, Ranges 22 and 23 East, and La Paz County, Arizona, Township 3 North, Range 22 West. Maps and further information are available from the contacts above.

Dated: July 19, 2000.

**Michael S. Hacskeylo,**

*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 00-19091 Filed 7-27-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-6841-5]

**Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Confidentiality Rules**

**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 the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval: Confidentiality Rules, EPA ICR No. 1665.03, OMB Control No. 2020-0003, expiration date August 31, 2000. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden and cost; where appropriate, it includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before August 28, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For a copy of the ICR, contact Sandy Farmer at EPA by phone at (202) 260-2740 or by email at [farmer.sandy@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:farmer.sandy@epamail.epa.gov), or download off the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr> and refer to EPA ICR No. 1665.03. For technical questions about the ICR, contact Rebecca Moser in EPA's Office of Information Collection by phone at (202) 260-6780, by fax at (202) 260-8550, or by email at [Moser.Rebecca@epa.gov](mailto:Moser.Rebecca@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Confidentiality Rules (OMB Control No. 2020-0003; EPA ICR No. 1665.03), expiring August 31, 2000. This is a request for extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* EPA administers a number of environmental protection statutes which require it to collect data from thousands of facilities. Businesses often claim the data they submit as confidential business information (CBI). EPA developed the regulations at 40 CFR part 2, subpart B to protect CBI, as well as the rights of the public under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). When EPA must determine whether information is entitled to confidential treatment, it provides the affected business with an opportunity to submit comments (a substantiation). EPA then considers the business's comments in determining whether the previously submitted information should be protected as CBI. This ICR relates to the collection of information that will assist EPA in making confidentiality determinations.

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 Federal Register document required under 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on April 12, 2000 (65 FR 19750); comments were received from one organization.

*Burden Statement:* The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 4.8 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:* 1330.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 1101.

*Frequency of Response:* on occasion.

*Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden:* 6432 hours.

*Estimated Total Annualized Capital and Operating & Maintenance Cost Burden:* \$0.

Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates, and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques to the following addresses. Please refer to EPA ICR No. 1665.03 and OMB Control No. 2020-0003 in any correspondence.

Ms. Sandy Farmer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Information, Collection Strategies Division (2822), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW., Washington, DC 20460; and

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: July 19, 2000.

**Joseph Retzer,**

*Director, Collection Services Division.*

[FR Doc. 00-19121 Filed 7-27-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-6842-6]

**Inadequacy Status of the Portneuf Valley, Pocatello, ID; Submitted Particulate Matter (PM10) Air Quality Improvement Plan for Transportation Conformity Purposes**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of inadequacy.

**SUMMARY:** In this document, EPA is notifying the public that we have found that the motor vehicle emissions budget for PM10 in the Portneuf Valley, Pocatello, Idaho submitted PM10 Air Quality Improvement Plan is inadequate for conformity purposes. On March 2, 1999, the D.C. Circuit Court ruled that submitted SIPs cannot be used for conformity determinations until EPA has affirmatively found them adequate. As a result of our finding, Portneuf Valley cannot use the motor vehicle emissions budget from the submitted PM-10 Air Quality Improvement Plan for future conformity determinations.

**DATES:** This finding is effective August 14, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The finding and the response to comments will be available at EPA's conformity website: <http://www.epa.gov/oms/traq>, (once there, click on the "Conformity" button, then look for "Adequacy Review of SIP Submissions for Conformity"). You may also contact Wayne Elson, U.S. EPA, Region 10 (OAQ-107), 1200 Sixth Ave, Seattle WA 98101; (206) 553-1463 or [elson.wayne@epa.gov](mailto:elson.wayne@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Today's document is simply an announcement of a finding that we have already made. EPA Region 10 sent a letter to Idaho Division of Environmental Quality on June 8, 2000 stating that the motor vehicle emissions budget in the Portneuf Valley submitted Particulate Matter (PM-10) Air Quality Improvement Plan is inadequate. This finding is based on the exceedences of the PM10 National Ambient Air Quality Standards recorded in December 1999, and the need to re-visit the planning effort for the Portneuf Valley PM10 nonattainment area. This finding will also be announced on EPA's conformity website: <http://www.epa.gov/oms/traq>, (once there, click on the "Conformity" button, then look for "Adequacy Review of SIP Submissions for Conformity").

Transportation conformity is required by section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act.