

The project would have an annual generation of 60 GWh that would be sold to a local utility.

1. A copy of the application is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room, located at 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or by calling (202) 208-1371. The application may be viewed on <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call (202) 208-2222 for assistance). A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item h above.

Preliminary Permit—Anyone desiring a file a competing application for preliminary permit for a proposed project must submit the competing application itself, or a notice of intent to file an application, to the Commission on or before the specified comment date for the particular application (see 18 CFR 4.36). Submission of a timely notice of intent allows an interested person to file the competing preliminary permit application no later than 30 days after the specified comment date for the particular application. A competing preliminary permit application must conform with 18 CFR 4.30(b) and 4.36.

Preliminary Permit—Any qualified development applicant desiring to file a competing development application must submit to the Commission, on or before a specified comment date for the particular application, either a competing development application or a notice of intent to file such an application. Submission of a timely notice of intent to file a development application allows an interested person to file the competing application no later than 120 days after the specified comment date for the particular application. A competing license application must conform with 18 CFR 4.30(b) and 4.36.

Notice of intent—A notice of intent must specify the exact name, business address, and telephone number of the prospective applicant, and must include an unequivocal statement of intent to submit, if such an application may be filed, either a preliminary permit application or a development application (specify which type of application). A notice of intent must be served on the applicant(s) named in this public notice.

Proposed Scope of Studies under Permit—A preliminary permit, if issued, does not authorize construction. The term of the proposed preliminary permit would be 36 months. The work proposed under the preliminary permit would include economic analysis, preparation of preliminary engineering plans, and a study of environmental

impacts. Based on the results of these studies, the Applicant would decide whether to proceed with the preparation of a development application to construct and operate the project.

Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene—Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

Filing and Service of Responsive Documents—Any filings must bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS", "NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE COMPETING APPLICATION", "COMPETING APPLICATION", "PROTEST", "MOTION TO INTERVENE", as applicable, and the Project Number of the particular application to which the filing refers. Any of the above-named documents must be filed by providing the original and the number of copies provided by the Commission's regulations to: The Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. An additional copy must be sent to Director, Division of Hydropower Administration and Compliance, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, at the above-mentioned address. A copy of any notice of intent, competing application or motion to intervene must also be served upon each representative of the Applicant specified in the particular application.

Agency Comments—Federal, state, and local agencies are invited to file comments on the described application. A copy of the application may be obtained by agencies directly from the Applicant. If an agency does not file comments within the time specified for filing comments, it will be presumed to have no comments. One copy of an agency's comments must also be sent to the Applicant's representatives.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6906-1]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Evaluations of Project XL Innovations

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 proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Evaluations of Project XL Innovations (EPA ICR No. 1993.01). 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 January 22, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The public may contact Mr. Eric Marsh in EPA's Office of Environmental Policy Innovation for a paper copy of the ICR (free of charge) or may download a copy of the ICR from the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/ProjectXL/>. Mr. Marsh may be reached by mail at the U.S. EPA Office of Environmental Policy Innovation (Mail Code 1802), Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460; by telephone at (202) 260-2782, by email at marsh.eric@epa.gov, or by FAX at 202-260-1812.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Katherine Dawes in the Office of Environmental Policy Innovation. Ms. Dawes may be reached by phone at (202) 260-8394, by email at dawes.katherine@epa.gov, or by FAX at 202-260-3125.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action include XL project sponsors, XL project stakeholders, state, tribal and local regulatory agencies, select members of the business industry, environmental organizations, industry trade associations, academics, and community members.

Title: Evaluations of Project XL Innovations (EPA ICR No.1993.01).

Abstract: In March 1995, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency initiated Project XL in response to the challenge to transform the environmental regulatory system to

better meet the needs of a rapidly changing society while maintaining the nation's commitment to protect human health and safeguard the natural environment. Through Project XL, which stands for eXcellence and Leadership, EPA enters into project agreements with public or private sector sponsors to test regulatory, policy, and procedural alternatives that will produce data and experiences to help the Agency make improvements in the current system of environmental protection. The goal of Project XL is to implement projects that will test ways of producing superior environmental performance with improved economic efficiencies, while increasing public participation through active stakeholder processes. EPA currently has 48 XL projects in implementation and expects to achieve the milestone of 50 signed projects by the end of November 2000.

In May 2001, EPA would like to begin in-depth evaluations of different Project XL innovations in order to determine which, if any, innovations have the potential for national application. Currently, EPA has identified more than 65 innovations resulting from projects in implementation. These innovations center around regulations, permitting, environmental information management, compliance and enforcement, environmental stewardship, and stakeholder involvement. From the identified innovations, EPA plans to evaluate a select set the Agency believes has potential for broader application. As more XL projects move into implementation and more innovations emerge, EPA plans to continue this same process of selecting a set of new innovations and then evaluating them.

The evaluation of XL innovations will serve a variety of purposes. First, by learning which innovations are working and which are not, EPA management can better discern which innovations can be applied on a wider-scale, which need further testing and refining before wide-scale adoption, and which should eventually be retired. Second, the evaluations will provide information to state, tribal, and local agencies attempting their own unique efforts to transform their regulatory systems. Third, they will inform industry representatives and the public, allowing them to play an active, creative role in finding solutions to environmental problems. Finally, the evaluations will help set the course for future EPA XL initiatives.

To conduct an evaluation, EPA will select a particular innovation and then identify a list of people EPA could interview to learn more about that

particular innovation. EPA will then choose from a set of questions pre-approved by OMB to develop specific interview questionnaires for the different categories of persons to be interviewed. For instance, one interview questionnaire will be developed solely for projects sponsors or persons in similar positions at different companies/facilities that would reasonably be interested in the innovation. Others will be developed for state and local agency officials, academia, community stakeholders, etc. The evaluations will then be analyzed by EPA with the results going into a report. Participation in the evaluations are strictly voluntary and individual responses will be confidential.

As a start, EPA intends to begin evaluating permit innovations from projects that have been in implementation for at least a year. In order to determine which, if any, permit innovations can be applied on a wider-scale, the Agency hopes to learn about the environmental benefits and other incentives the permit innovation has provided; if other facilities/companies are interested in applying for the same type of innovation; if the innovation needs to be tested again before it can be widely adopted; and if the innovation addresses the public's concerns and stakeholder information needs. All interviews will be conducted by phone.

The types of innovation questions that will be asked are discussed in more detail in the ICR supplementary statement. Regarding permit innovations, EPA will use questions to collect data listed below:

- Description of permit innovation (extent to which innovation originally envisioned at start of project matches innovation in implementation)
- Predictability of permit innovation
- Extent to which permit innovation has reduced/increased administrative burden
 - Extent to which permit innovation has resulted in environmental benefits
 - Extent to which permit innovation has resulted in efficiencies
 - Extent to which public has increased access to data as a result of permit innovation
 - Extent to which public accepts permit innovation
 - Extent to which permit innovation allows for accountability
 - Extent to which permit innovation allows for proper compliance and/or enforcement
 - Extent to which permit accounts for environmental justice concerns
 - Extent to which permit innovation is transferable to other companies/sectors

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 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 submissions of responses.

Burden Statement: It is estimated that there will be two hundred respondents annually to the Project XL innovation interviews requiring 200 burden hours at a total cost of \$12,800. EPA estimates that each respondent will spend approximately two hours reviewing the questions before participating in the phone interview, and each respondent will spend one hour on the phone participating during the interview. To fulfill all information collection requirements for respondents, EPA estimates that it will cost each respondent approximately \$192 and take approximately three hours. Divided by three years, since ICRs are approved for three year periods, this comes out to approximately \$64 and one hour per respondent per year. No capital or start-up costs will be associated with this effort.

It is also estimated that there will be 60 respondents annually to the Project XL permit innovation interviews requiring 60 burden hours at a total cost of \$3,840. EPA estimates that each respondent will spend approximately two hours reviewing the questions before participating in the phone interview, and each respondent will spend one hour on the phone participating in the interview. To fulfill all information collection requirements for respondents, EPA estimates that it will cost each respondent approximately \$192 and take

approximately three hours. Divided by three years, since ICRs are approved for three year periods, this comes out to approximately \$64 and one hour per respondent per year. No capital or start-up costs will be associated with this effort.

Burden means 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.

Dated: November 13, 2000.

Elizabeth A. Shaw,

Director, Office of Environmental Policy Innovation.

[FR Doc. 00-29881 Filed 11-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6905-8]

Acid Rain NO_x Emission Reduction Program—Permit Modifications for Alternative Emission Limitations

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of draft permit modifications adopting alternative emission limitations.

SUMMARY: Under Title IV of the Clean Air Act, EPA established the Acid Rain NO_x Emission Reduction Program to reduce the adverse effects of acidic deposition. EPA adopted nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emission limits and issued permits to affected sources. EPA is issuing and requesting public comment on draft Acid Rain permit modifications. These permit modifications add new NO_x emission limitations (i.e., Alternative Emission Limitations for NO_x emissions for Phase I units in accordance with the Acid Rain Program regulations) to the permits. The Alternative Emission Limitations are less stringent than the standard limit for these type of units but are the minimum rate that the units can achieve during

long-term dispatch operation with low NO_x burners.

DATES: *Comments.* EPA must receive comments on this action on or before the later of December 22, 2000 or 30 days after the date on which a similar notice is published in a local newspaper.

Public Hearing. Anyone requesting a public hearing on this action must contract the EPA by the later of December 4, 2000 or 10 days after the date on which a similar notice is published in a local newspaper.

ADDRESSES: *Comments.* Send comments, requests for a public hearing, and requests to receive notice of future actions to EPA Region 3, Air Protection Division, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19103, Attn: Linda Miller (3 AP 11). Submit comments in duplicate and identify the permit to which the comments apply, the commenter's name, address, and telephone number, and the commenter's interest in the matter and affiliation, if any, to the owners and operators of the units involved.

Public Hearing. To request a public hearing, state the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. EPA may schedule a hearing if EPA finds that it will contribute to the decision-making process by clarifying significant issues affecting the draft permit modification.

Administrative Records. The administrative record for the draft permit modification, except information protected as confidential, may be viewed during normal operating hours at the following location: EPA Region 3, 1650 Arch Street 14th floor, Philadelphia, PA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Miller, EPA Region 3, (215) 814-2068.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In today's action, EPA is issuing and requesting public comment on draft permit modifications that add to permits an Alternative Emission Limitations for NO_x emissions for Phase I units in accordance with Parts 72 and 76 of the Acid Rain Program regulations. EPA will consider all timely comments, except those pertaining to standard provisions under 40 CFR 72.9 or issues not relevant to the draft permit modifications. The units involved are Morgantown Units 1 and 2 and Mitchell Units 1 and 2. Morgantown, Units 1 and 2, are in Charles County, Maryland and will be required to meet an annual average emissions limit for NO_x of 0.63 lb/mmBtu and 0.64 lb/mmBtu, respectively, instead of the otherwise applicable standard limit of 0.45 lb/mmBtu. The Morgantown unit's

designated representative is James S. Potts. Mitchell, Units 1 and 2, are in Marshall County, West Virginia, and will be required to meet an annual average emissions limit for NO_x of 0.55 lb/mmBtu and 0.53 lb/mmBtu, respectively, instead of the otherwise applicable limit of 0.50 lb/mmBtu. The Mitchell unit's designated representative is John M. McManus.

Dated: November 15, 2000.

Brian J. McLean,

Director, Clean Air Markets Division, Office of Atmospheric Programs, Office of Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 00-29880 Filed 11-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-42078A; FRL-6751-6]

South Dakota State Plan for Certification of Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides; Notice of Approval

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In the *Federal Register* of July 14, 2000, EPA issued a notice of intent to approve an amended South Dakota Plan for the certification of applicators of restricted use pesticides. In this notice EPA solicited comments from the public on the proposed action to approve the amended South Dakota Plan. The amended Certification Plan South Dakota submitted to EPA permitted the use of M-44 Sodium Cyanide Devices by both commercial and private applicators to control coyotes (*Canis latrans*) that prey upon livestock and poultry. The amendment establishes new requirements for the training, certification, recertification, and recordkeeping of individuals that use M-44 Sodium Cyanide Devices. No comments were received and EPA hereby approves the amended South Dakota Plan.

ADDRESSES: The amended South Dakota Certification Plan can be reviewed at the locations listed under Unit I.B. of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ron Schiller, Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII (8P-P3T), 999 18th St., Suite 300, Denver, CO 80202; telephone number: (303) 312-6017; e-mail address: schiller.ron@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: