

Technology Incentives Program (VATIP) codified at 40 CFR 430.24(b). The Milestone Plan requirements were promulgated as amendments to VATIP on July 7, 1999 (*see* 64 FR 36582) and are codified at 40 CFR 430.24(b)(3). The Milestones Plan provisions, promulgated under the authorities of sections 301, 304, 306, 308, 402, and 501 of the Clean Water Act, require owners or operators of bleached papergrade kraft and soda mills enrolled in the VATIP to submit information to describe each envisioned new technology component or process modification the mill intends to implement in order to achieve the VATIP Best Available Technology (BAT) limits, including a master schedule showing the sequence of implementing new technologies and process modifications and identifying critical-path relationships within the sequence.

EPA has determined that the Milestones Plan will provide valuable benchmarks for reasonable inquiries into progress being made by participating mills toward achieving interim and ultimate tier limits of the VATIP and will offer the necessary flexibility to the mill and the permit writer so that the milestones selected to be incorporated into the mill's NPDES permit reflect the unique situation of the mill.

The Milestones Plan must include the following information for each new individual technology or process modification: (1) A schedule of anticipated dates for associated construction, installation, and/or process changes; (2) the anticipated dates of completion for those steps; (3) the anticipated date that the Advanced Technology process or individual component will be fully operational; (4) and the anticipated reductions in effluent quantity and improvements in effluent quality as measured at the bleach plant (for bleach plant, pulping area and evaporator condensates flow and BAT parameters other than Adsorbable Organic Halides (AOX)) and the end of the pipe (for AOX) (*see* 40 CFR 430.24(c)(3)). For those technologies or process modifications that are not commercially available or demonstrated on a full-scale basis at the time of Plan development, the Plan must include a schedule for initiating and completing research (if necessary), process development, and mill trials (*see* 40 CFR 430.24(c)(3)(i)). The Plan must also include contingency plans in the event that any of the technologies or processes specified in the Milestones Plan need to be adjusted or alternative approaches developed to ensure that the

ultimate tier limits are achieved by the deadlines specified in 40 CFR 430.24(b)(4)(ii) (*see* 40 CFR 430.24(c)(4)).

EPA has structured the Plan to provide maximum flexibility to the regulated community and to minimize administrative burdens on NPDES permit authorities that regulate bleached papergrade kraft and soda mills. All data claimed as CBI or trade secrets submitted by the mills as part of this ICR will be handled by EPA pursuant to 40 CFR part 2. Although EPA does not anticipate that it will be necessary for mills to submit any CBI or trade secrets as part of this ICR, if a mill claims all or part of the milestones plan as CBI, the mill must prepare and submit to the NPDES permitting authority a summary of the plan for public release (*see* 40 CFR 430.24(c)).

*Comments to First Notice:* EPA received no comments to the first notice of submission of this ICR to OMB.

*Burden Statement:* The annual public reporting and record keeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 120 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:* Entities potentially affected by this action are those existing, direct discharging mills with operations that chemically pulp wood fiber using kraft or soda methods to produce bleached papergrade pulp, paperboard, coarse paper, tissue paper, fine paper, and/or paperboard and that choose to participate in the Voluntary Advanced Technology Incentives Program established under 40 CFR 430.24(b).

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 29 mills.

*Frequency of response:* The burden for a mill (which chooses to participate voluntarily in the incentives program) to prepare and submit a Milestones Plan is estimated to average approximately 120 hours per respondent. This is a one-time

burden. State NPDES permitting authorities burden to review the Milestones Plans is estimated at 16 hours per respondent as an initial burden with an average recurring annual review burden of 6 hours per respondent. There is no recurring burden for mill respondents associated with this information collection.

*Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden:* 1,418 hours.

*Estimated Total Annualized Capital, O&M Cost Burden:* \$0.

Dated: February 26, 2002.

**Oscar Morales,**

*Director, Collection Strategies Division.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7154-4]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Operator Certification Guidelines and Operator Certification Expense Reimbursement Grants 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 the following Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval: Operator Certification Guidelines and Operator Certification Expense Reimbursement Grants Program, OMB Control Number 2040-0236, expiration date February 28, 2002. 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 April 8, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments, referencing EPA ICR #1955.02, and OMB Control No. 2040-0236 to the following addresses: Susan Auby, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Collection Strategies Division (Mail Code 2822), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC, 20460; and to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For a copy of the ICR contact Susan Auby

at EPA by phone at (202) 260-4901, by E-mail at [auby.susan@epa.gov](mailto:auby.susan@epa.gov), or download off the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr> and refer to EPA ICR #1955.02. For technical questions about the ICR, contact Jenny Jacobs, Drinking Water Protection Division (Mailcode 4606M), Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC, 20460. Ms. Jacobs may be contacted by phone at (202) 564-3836 or by E-mail at [jacobs.jenny@epa.gov](mailto:jacobs.jenny@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Operator Certification Guidelines and Operator Certification Expense Reimbursement Grants Program (OMB Control Number 2040-0236; EPA ICR Number 1955.02) expiring 2/28/02. This is an extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* This information collection is to determine if states are meeting the requirements of EPA's operator certification guidelines, which were published in the **Federal Register** on February 5, 1999 (64 FR 5916). Section 1419(a) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments of 1996 requires EPA to develop operator certification guidelines for state operator certification programs and to publish final guidelines by February 6, 1999. Pursuant to section 1419(b) of the SDWA, beginning two years after the date on which EPA publishes operator certification guidelines (February 5, 2001), EPA shall withhold 20 percent of the funds a state is otherwise entitled to receive under SDWA section 1452 unless a state has adopted and is implementing a program that meets the requirements of EPA's operator certification guidelines. EPA is required under SDWA section 1419 to make an annual determination on whether to withhold 20 percent of a state's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) allotment. In order to make these decisions, EPA must collect information from the states as required by EPA's guidelines. States, in turn, must collect information from water systems as required by their respective programs.

SDWA section 1419(d) requires EPA to reimburse (through grants to states) the costs of training, including an appropriate per diem for unsalaried operators, and certification for persons operating community and nontransient noncommunity public water systems serving 3,300 persons or fewer that are required to undergo training pursuant to EPA's operator certification guidelines. Prior to awarding grants to states, EPA will need to collect information from states to ensure that the state has a plan for distributing the funds to small system operators. 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 2/28/01 (66 FR 12776); 1 comment was received.

*Burden Statement:* The annual public reporting and record keeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 4 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:* Owners/operator of public water systems, State Environmental Water Quality Agencies, State Departments of Health.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 68,396.

*Frequency of Response:* Annually.

*Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden:* 302,425 hours.

*Estimated Total Annualized Capital, O&M Cost Burden:* \$898,000.

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 addresses listed above. Please refer to EPA ICR No. 1955.02 and OMB Control No. 2040-0236 in any correspondence.

Dated: February 26, 2002.

**Oscar Morales,**

*Director, Collection Strategies Division.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7154-5]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Clean Watersheds Needs Survey, EPA ICR No. 0318.09, OMB Control No. 2040-0050, Expiration Date February 28, 2002

**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 EPA ICR No. 0318.09, OMB Control No. 2040-0050, expiration date February 28, 2002. 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 April 8, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments, referencing EPA ICR No. 0318.09 and OMB Control No. 2040-0050, to the following addresses: Susan Auby, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Collection Strategies Division (Mail Code 2822), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. 20460-0001; and to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Attention: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For a copy of the ICR contact Susan Auby at EPA by phone at (202) 260-4901, by E-mail at [auby.susan@epa.gov](mailto:auby.susan@epa.gov) or download off the internet or download off of the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr> and refer to EPA ICR 0318.09. For technical questions about the ICR please call Sandra Perrin at (202) 564-0668 in the Office of Water.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (OMB Control No. 2040-0050; EPA ICR No. 0318.09; expiring 2/28/2002. This is a renewal of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* The Clean Watersheds Needs Survey is required by sections 205(a) and 516(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act. It is a periodic inventory of existing and proposed publicly owned wastewater treatment works (POTWs) and other water pollution control