

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7255-2]

Joint USEPA/State Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Agreement to Pursue Regulatory Innovation: Alternative Treatment Technique for National Primary Drinking Water Lead and Copper Regulations for Certain Non-transient Non-community Water Systems**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.**ACTION:** Notice of availability of draft variance for public review and comment.

SUMMARY: USEPA Region 5 is today proposing to issue a variance under section 1415(a)(3) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) for certain Non-Transient Non-Community Water Systems (NTNCWSs) in the State of Michigan. The final SDWA variance would be used to implement a project entitled "Use of Flushing to Meet the Federal Lead/Copper Regulation for Nontransient Noncommunity Public Water Supply Systems." This project is being proposed under the Joint USEPA/State Agreement to Pursue Regulatory Innovation between the USEPA and the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS).

DATES: All public comments on this draft variance must be received on or before September 5, 2002.

ADDRESSES: All written comments on the SDWA draft variance should be sent to: Miguel Del Toral, USEPA Region 5, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch, Mailcode WG-15J, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, 60604. Comments may also be faxed to Miguel Del Toral at (312) 886-6171, or via electronic mail to: deltoral.miguel@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To obtain a copy of the SDWA draft variance, and other project documents, contact: Miguel Del Toral, USEPA Region 5, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch, Mailcode WG-15J, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604. The SDWA draft variance and other project documents are also available on the Internet at the following location: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/notices.htm>. Questions regarding the SDWA draft variance can be directed to Miguel Del Toral at (312) 886-5253.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs) for lead and

copper require all Community Water Systems (CWS) and NTNCWSs to optimize corrosion control, to minimize levels of lead and copper at consumers' taps. CWSs and NTNCWSs that exceed either the lead or copper "action level" must follow the treatment technique specified in the NPDWRs (i.e., installing corrosion control treatment (CCT)) to minimize lead levels at consumers' taps. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), which has primary enforcement responsibility for implementing the NPDWRs for lead and copper in the State of Michigan, believes that an alternative approach to CCT would be just as efficient in lowering the levels of lead and copper at consumers' taps. The alternative approach includes the replacement of fixtures contributing significant levels of lead and/or copper, and the flushing of all taps used for human consumption on a regular basis.

On May 5, 1998, USEPA and ECOS signed the "Joint EPA/State Agreement to Pursue Regulatory Innovation." Under this Agreement, USEPA and State environmental officials agreed to explore innovative ways to implement environmental programs. MDEQ has submitted a Joint Agreement proposal under this Agreement that would allow certain NTNCWSs to use the alternative approach in lieu of complying with the treatment technique specified in the NPDWRs for lead and copper promulgated by USEPA under section 1412 of SDWA (See 40 CFR 141.80 through 141.91). USEPA has identified a variance, under Section 1415(a)(3) of SDWA, as the potentially appropriate mechanism for allowing NTNCWSs within Michigan that qualify for the variance and comply with its terms to use an alternative approach. Section 1415(a)(3) of SDWA gives USEPA the authority to issue a variance from a treatment technique ". . . upon

a showing by any person that an alternative treatment technique not included in such requirement is at least as efficient in lowering the level of the contaminant with respect to which such requirement was prescribed." USEPA has preliminarily determined that MDEQ has made a proper showing that the alternative approach will be as efficient in lowering the levels of lead and/or copper and therefore proposes to issue a variance. The SDWA draft variance specifies eligibility and performance criteria that NTNCWSs must satisfy to be eligible for the SDWA variance, and performance criteria that these systems must satisfy to remain eligible for the SDWA variance.

After consideration of public comments received on the SDWA draft

variance, USEPA will take final action on the SDWA variance, which would include any necessary modification(s) based on comments received. USEPA and MDEQ have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which also contains the draft eligibility and participation criteria, and outlines the roles and responsibilities of USEPA and MDEQ in implementing this project. A copy of the MOU can also be obtained by contacting Miguel Del Toral at the addresses or phone number above.

Dated: July 19, 2002.

Bharat Mathur,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region V.
[FR Doc. 02-19800 Filed 8-5-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the proposed information collection. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), this notice seeks comments concerning FEMA and other Federal agencies policies and procedures for providing Federal support for offsite radiological emergency planning and preparedness. It describes the process for providing Federal facilities and resources to the nuclear power plant licensee after an affirmative determination has been made on the licensee's certification of a "decline or fail" situation.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Executive Order 12657, dated November 18, 1998, charged FEMA and other Federal agencies with the emergency planning response in cases where State and Local governments have declined or failed to prepare emergency plans. To implement Executive Order 12657, FEMA worked with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and other Federal agencies on the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) to develop regulation 44 CFR 352, Commercial Nuclear Power Plants: Emergency Preparedness planning. This

regulation establishes policies and procedures for a licensee submission of a certification of "decline or fail", and for FEMA's determination concerning Federal assistance to the licensee. It also establishes policies and procedures for providing Federal Support for offsite planning and preparedness.

In accordance with Executive Order 12657, FEMA will need certain information from the licensee in order to form a decision as to whether or not a condition of "decline or fail" exists on the part of State or Local governments (44 CFR 352.3-4). This information will be collected by the appropriate FEMA Regional Office or Headquarters. Also, when a licensee requests Federal facilities or resources, FEMA will need information from the NRC as to whether the licensee has made maximum use of its resources and the extent to which the licensee has complied with 10 CFR 50.47(c)(1) and 44 FR 352.5. This information will be collected by the NRC and will be provided to FEMA through consultation between the two agencies.

Collection of Information

Title: Federal Assistance for Offsite Radiological Emergency Planning.

Type of Information Collection: Reinstatement, without change of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

OMB Number: 3067-0201.

Form Numbers: None.

Abstract: In accordance with Executive Order 12657 and under regulation 44 CFR 352, FEMA will need certain information from the licensee in order to form a decision as to whether or not a condition of "decline or fail" exists on the part of the State or Local government. Also, when a licensee requests Federal facilities or resources, FEMA will need information from the NRC as to whether the licensee has made maximum use of its resources and the extent to which the licensee has complied with 10 CFR 50.47(c)(1).

Affected Public: Business or Other For-Profit and State, Local or Tribal Government.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 160.

Estimated Cost: 3,323.

Comments: Written comments are solicited to (a) evaluate whether the proposed data collection is necessary for the proper performance of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) 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; (c) enhance the quality, utility, and

clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) 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. Comments should be received within 60 days of the date of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit written comments to Muriel B. Anderson, Chief, Records Management Section, Program Services and Systems Branch, Facilities Management and Services Division, Administration and Resource Planning Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW., Room 316, Washington, DC 20472.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact William McNutt, Program Specialist, Office of National Preparedness and (202) 646-2857 for additional information. You may contact Ms. Anderson for copies of the proposed collection of information at telephone number (202) 646-2625 or facsimile number (202) 646-3347 or email muriel.Anderson@fema.gov.

Dated: July 29, 2002.

Reginald Trujillo,

Branch Chief, Program Services and Systems Branch, Facilities Management and Services Division, Administration and Resource Planning Directorate.

[FR Doc. 02-19753 Filed 8-5-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-01-P

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Emergency Management Agency, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed continuing information collections. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), this notice seeks comments concerning the collection of information required to implement the Flood Mitigation Assistance program requirements.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Program was created with the enactment of the National Flood Insurance Reform

Act of 1994 (the Act). Section 553 of the Act authorizes a mitigation assistance program which FEMA has designated Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA). Section 554 establishes the National Flood Mitigation Fund to provide assistance under Section 553. FMA regulations implement requirements of Section 553 and 554 of the Act.

FMA was developed to address concerns regarding repetitively or substantially damaged structures, or both, and the associated claims on the National Flood Insurance Fund. The overall goal of FMA is to fund cost-effective measures that reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other insurable structures.

The purpose of the planning grants is to develop or update a Flood Mitigation Plan that FEMA must approve before approving a project grant. Native American tribes or authorized tribal organizations may submit applications to the State POC or directly to the FEMA Regional Director.

The regulations outline a basic planning process with minimum standards for the Flood Mitigation Plans. Existing plans, such as those credited through the Community Rating System or those prepared in conformance with Section 322 of the Stafford Act, as amended by Section 104 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, may meet the requirements of FMA with few or no modifications. The plan should summarize the planning process, and should be reviewed periodically by the community in order to remain a viable document. Flood Mitigation Plans must be formally adopted by the legal entity submitting the plan for FEMA approval.

Collection of Information

Title: Flood Mitigation Assistance Program.

Type of Information Collection: Revisions of a currently approved collection.

OMB Number: 3067-0271.

Form Numbers: None.

Abstract: FMA Application Package. The State will use the local government's application for grant assistance to recommend to FEMA its preference for use of limited grant funds. FEMA will use the application to determine for which projects in which communities it will provide funding from among the limited annual appropriation. The application will provide FEMA sufficient information to determine whether the project meets the minimum eligibility criteria and objectively evaluate its merits.