

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. All such motions or protests should be filed on or before the comment date, and, to the extent applicable, must be served on the applicant and on any other person designated on the official service list. This filing is available for review at the Commission or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "FERRIS" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at (866)208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202)502-8659. Protests and interventions may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper; see 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site under the "e-Filing" link. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-17021 Filed 7-3-03; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7522-8]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, Subpart J

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): Nation Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan—Subpart J, EPA ICR 1664.05, OMB Control Number RIN 2050-AE87, expiration date 01/31/2004. 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 September 5, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons may obtain a copy of the ICR without charge by contacting the EPA Docket Center at 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., EPA West, Suite B-102, Washington, DC 20460. The docket number for this ICR is OPA 2003-0001. The docket is contained in the EPA Docket Center and is available for inspection by appointment only, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. You may make an appointment to view the docket by calling 202-566-0276. You may copy a maximum of 100 pages from a regulatory docket at no cost. If the number of pages exceeds 100, however, we will charge you \$0.15 for each page after 100. The docket will mail copies to you if you are outside the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William "Nick" Nichols, (703) 603-9918, Facsimile Number (703) 603-9116, e-mail: nichols.nick@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are those which manufacture, sell, distribute and/or use oil spill dispersants, other chemicals, and other spill mitigating devices and substances that may be used in carrying out the NCP, as listed in 40 CFR 300.900 on land or waters of the United States.

Title: National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, Subpart J (NCP) (OMB Control No. RIN 2050-AE87; EPA ICR No.1664.05), expiring 01/31/2004.

Abstract: Subpart J of the NCP allows and regulates the use of chemical and biological oil spill cleanup and control agents. The information collected is supplied by the manufacturer of such products. This information and data are then analyzed by EPA to determine the appropriateness, and under which category, the product may be listed on the NCP Product Schedule. This product data is critical for EPA to obtain in order to assure that effectiveness and toxicity data for these products is available to the oil spill community in order to use them legally and effectively. Responses to the collection of information are mandatory if EPA determines that the products specifications require its listing under subpart J (40 CFR 300.5 Definitions). However, manufacturers volunteer to have their product analyzed. The authority to review and use a product is 40 CFR 300.910. Confidentiality of data, ingredients, and other proprietary information for the products is maintained by EPA. Manufacturers may use any certified lab in the U.S. to test their product's effectiveness and

toxicity. The cost of such tests range from \$1,200 to \$15,000 per test. The process to have a product listed takes at least 30 days, but no longer than 60 days, depending on the accuracy and completeness of the product information package provided to EPA by the manufacturer. Due to the technical and graphical data required to be listed, electronic submissions are not accepted.

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: Estimated projected cost and hour burden for listing a product are between 13.4 and 40 hours at a cost ranging from under \$3,500 to \$16,021 depending on the product and what the lab charges the manufacturer to test the product. EPA estimates that an average of 14 product applications are submitted each year at a cost of \$95,558 (\$6,825 average) to manufacturers and \$17,708 to EPA. Additional data requirements include changes to manufacturer's address, name of product, distributors, product specifications, and any other changes to the product. Changes to the product's composition may require further testing and data submission to EPA. Otherwise the cost to supply this information to EPA is a one-time cost. EPA does not charge any fees to maintain records for a product nor are there any costs to update the product's file other than those mentioned above. There are no required capital, start up cost or fees required by EPA to have a product listed.

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.

Dated: June 27, 2003.

Stephen Heare,

Acting Director, Office of Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response.
[FR Doc. 03-17103 Filed 7-3-03; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[MB Docket No. 03-15, RM 9832, MM Docket Nos. 99-360, 00-167, 00-168; DA 03-1292]

RIN 3060-AH54

Simulcasting Requirements

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice; temporary waiver request.

SUMMARY: This document discusses three requests filed with the Commission by various parties regarding DTV simulcasting requirements. This item grants a 6 month waiver of NCE TV stations to give them more time to comply with the requirements. This document also denies a request for suspension of the increase in minimum DTV operating hours. These actions are taken in compliance with the Commission's DTV rules.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Matthews, Media Bureau at (202) 418-2154 or via Internet at Kim.matthews@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document is a summary of the Commission's *Order*, MB 03-15; DA 03-1292, adopted April 28, 2003 and released April 29, 2003. The full text of this *Order* is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW.,

Room CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554, and may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554, telephone (202) 863-2893, facsimile (202) 863-2898, or via e-mail qualexint@aol.com or may be viewed via Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/mb/>.

Synopsis of Order

1. The Media Bureau has received three requests related to the DTV simulcast requirements in § 73.624(f) of our rules. Noncommercial educational television stations collectively request a temporary suspension of the DTV simulcasting requirements as they apply to NCE stations. Paxson Communications Corporation ("Paxson") and Milwaukee Area Technical College ("MATC") request temporary waivers of § 73.624(f). As discussed, we grant NCE stations a six-month waiver of the DTV simulcast requirements. We also grant the waiver request of MATC and deny the Paxson waiver request.

Background

2. Section 73.624(f) of the Commission's rules requires DTV licensees to simulcast 50% of the video programming of their analog channel on their DTV channel by April 1, 2003. This requirement increases to a 75% simulcast requirement on April 1, 2004, and a 100% requirement on April 1, 2005. The simulcasting requirement was intended to ensure that consumers enjoy continuity of free over-the-air video programming service when analog spectrum is reclaimed at the end of the transition. The Commission stated that it may be difficult to terminate analog broadcast service if broadcasters show programs on their analog channels that are not available on their digital channels.

3. In the Memorandum Opinion and Order on Reconsideration ("MO&O") in the 1st DTV periodic review, MM 00-39 (66 FR 65122, December 18, 2001), the Commission allowed stations subject to the May 1, 2002, or May 1, 2003, digital construction deadlines to operate initially at a reduced schedule by providing, at a minimum, a digital signal during prime time hours, consistent with their simulcast obligations. The minimum operating hours for these digital stations effectively increases as the simulcast obligations are phased in. For example, beginning April 1, 2003, a DTV station that was required to be on the air by May 1, 2002, must provide a simulcast digital signal at least 50% of the time it transmits an analog signal and. Along

with the simulcasting requirements, the minimum hours requirements step up to a 75% requirement in April 2004, and a 100% requirement in April 2005. Stations that were subject to the earlier DTV construction deadlines (top four network affiliates in the top thirty markets) are required to operate their DTV station at any time that the analog station is operating.

4. In the Notice of Proposed Rule Making ("NPRM") initiating the 2nd periodic review of the transition to digital television (68 FR 7737, February 18, 2003), the Commission sought comment on whether it should retain, revise, or remove the simulcast requirement. The Commission asked whether broadcasters have a market-based incentive to simulcast that makes a simulcast requirement unnecessary. The Commission also asked whether the simulcasting requirement is causing broadcasters to forego creative uses of digital technology, and if something less than the ultimate 100% simulcast requirement would be sufficient to protect analog viewers while allowing for innovation on DTV channels. The Commission also sought comment on how to define simulcasting, and whether the current dates for the phase-in of simulcast requirements are appropriate.

5. *NCE Television Stations.* Dow, Lohnes & Albertson, Schwartz, Woods & Miller, the Public Broadcasting Service, and the Association of Public Television Stations (collectively referred to herein as "PBS, *et al.*"), on behalf of NCE TV licensees, request that the FCC temporarily suspend the DTV simulcasting requirements as they apply to NCE stations pending FCC action on the simulcasting issues in the 2nd DTV periodic review proceeding. The emergency request states that, although many NCE DTV stations will be able to transmit a digital television signal by the May 1, 2003, construction deadline, some stations do not yet have in place necessary studio transmitter links ("STLs") or other digital interconnection facilities between their studios and their transmitters to permit them to receive the simulcast programming feed from their studios. According to PBS, some NCE stations also do not yet have the encoding equipment that enables the station to digitize its NTSC programming for DTV broadcast.

6. We recognize that, unlike commercial licensees, the deadlines to complete construction of digital facilities and to comply with the 50% simulcasting requirement for noncommercial educational licensees were the same. PBS states that many