

1040TH—MEETING—Continued

Item No.	Docket No.	Company
<b>Certificates</b>		
C-1 .....	CP08-454-000 .....	LA Storage, LLC.
C-2 .....	CP17-257-000 .....	WBI Energy Transmission, Inc.
C-3 .....	CP17-468-000 .....	Texas Eastern Transmission, LP.
C-4 .....	CP17-46-000 .....	Southern Natural Gas Company, L.L.C.
C-5 .....	CP15-499-000, CP15-499-001, CP17-26-000.	Texas Eastern Transmission, LP; Pomelo Connector, LLC.

Dated: February 8, 2018.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

A free webcast of this event is available through <http://ferc.capitolconnection.org/>. Anyone with internet access who desires to view this event can do so by navigating to [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)'s Calendar of Events and locating this event in the Calendar. The event will contain a link to its webcast. The Capitol Connection provides technical support for the free webcasts. It also offers access to this event via television in the DC area and via phone bridge for a fee. If you have any questions, visit <http://ferc.capitolconnection.org/> or contact Danelle Springer or David Reininger at 703-993-3100.

Immediately following the conclusion of the Commission Meeting, a press briefing will be held in the Commission Meeting Room. Members of the public may view this briefing in the designated overflow room. This statement is intended to notify the public that the press briefings that follow Commission meetings may now be viewed remotely at Commission headquarters, but will not be telecast through the Capitol Connection service.

[FR Doc. 2018-03013 Filed 2-9-18; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[9974-34-ORD]

**Ambient Air Monitoring Reference and Equivalent Methods; Designation of One New Reference Method**

**AGENCY:** Office of Research and Development; Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice of the designation of a new reference method for monitoring ambient air quality.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated one new reference

method for measuring concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in ambient air.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert Vanderpool, Exposure Methods and Measurements Division (MD-D205-03), National Exposure Research Laboratory, U.S. EPA, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711. Phone: 919-541-7877. Email: [Vanderpool.Robert@epa.gov](mailto:Vanderpool.Robert@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with regulations at 40 CFR part 53, the EPA evaluates various methods for monitoring the concentrations of those ambient air pollutants for which EPA has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) as set forth in 40 CFR part 50. Monitoring methods that are determined to meet specific requirements for adequacy are designated by the EPA as either reference or equivalent methods (as applicable), thereby permitting their use under 40 CFR part 58 by States and other agencies for determining compliance with the NAAQS. A list of all reference or equivalent methods that have been previously designated by EPA may be found at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/criteria.html>.

The EPA hereby announces the designation of one new reference method for measuring concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> in ambient air. This designation is made under the provisions of 40 CFR part 53, as amended on October 26, 2015 (80 FR 65291-65468).

The new reference method for NO<sub>2</sub> is an automated method (analyzer) utilizing the measurement principle based on gas phase chemiluminescence. This newly designated reference method is identified as follows:

RFNA-0118-249, "Environnement S. A. Model AC32e and AC32e\* Chemiluminescent NO, NO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> Analyzer," operated with user selectable ranges of 0-1 ppm or 0-10 ppm, at any temperature in the range of 0 °C to 40 °C, equipped with a 5-micron PTFE sample inlet filter, molybdenum NO<sub>x</sub> converter operating at 340 °C, heated catalytic ozone scrubber, external pump, operating with a sample flow rate of

0.66 Lpm (1.00 Lpm with optional sample dryer), with an ozone flow rate of 0.06 Lpm, and operating from a 115V/60Hz, 230V/50Hz power source. Includes 7" touch screen and USB and Ethernet outputs. Model AC32e\* does not contain touch screen and communicates via user-provided computer, smartphone, or tablet. Analyzer operated and maintained in accordance with the Model AC32e Technical Manual.

This application for a reference method determination for this NO<sub>2</sub> method was received by the Office of Research and Development on December 6, 2017. This analyzer is commercially available from the applicant, Environment S.A., 111, bd Robespierre, 78300 Poissy, France.

A representative test analyzer was tested in accordance with the applicable test procedures specified in 40 CFR part 53, as amended on October 26, 2015. After reviewing the results of those tests and other information submitted by the applicant, EPA has determined, in accordance with part 53, that this method should be designated as a reference method.

As a designated reference method, this method is acceptable for use by states and other air monitoring agencies under the requirements of 40 CFR part 58, Ambient Air Quality Surveillance. For such purposes, this method must be used in strict accordance with the operation or instruction manual associated with the method and subject to any specifications and limitations (e.g., configuration or operational settings) specified in the designated method description (see the identification of the method above).

Use of the method also should be in general accordance with the guidance and recommendations of applicable sections of the "Quality Assurance Handbook for Air Pollution Measurement Systems, Volume I," EPA/600/R-94/038a and "Quality Assurance Handbook for Air Pollution Measurement Systems, Volume II, Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Program," EPA-454/B-13-003, (both

available at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/qalist.html>). Provisions concerning modification of such methods by users are specified under Section 2.8 (Modifications of Methods by Users) of Appendix C to 40 CFR part 58.

Consistent or repeated noncompliance with any of these conditions should be reported to: Director, Exposure Methods and Measurements Division (MD-E205-01), National Exposure Research Laboratory, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711.

Designation of this reference method is intended to assist the States in establishing and operating their air quality surveillance systems under 40 CFR part 58. Questions concerning the commercial availability or technical aspects of the method should be directed to the applicant.

Dated: February 5, 2018.

**Timothy H. Watkins,**

*Acting Director, National Exposure Research Laboratory.*

[FR Doc. 2018-02813 Filed 2-12-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-OARM-2017-0752; FRL-9974-29-OARM]

### Proposed Information Collection Request; Comment Request; Background Checks for Contractor Employees (Renewal)

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency is planning to submit an information collection request (ICR), "Background Checks for Contractor Employees (Renewal)" (EPA ICR No. 2159.07, OMB Control No. 2030-0043) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. Before doing so, EPA is soliciting public comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below. This is a proposed extension of the ICR, which is currently approved through August 31, 2018. 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.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before April 16, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments, referencing Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OARM-2017-0752 online using [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (our preferred method), by email to [oei.docket@epa.gov](mailto:oei.docket@epa.gov), or by mail to: EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460.

EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes profanity, threats, information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas Valentino, Policy Training and Oversight Division, Office of Acquisition Management (3802R), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (202) 564-4522; email address: [valentino.thomas@epa.gov](mailto:valentino.thomas@epa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Supporting documents which explain in detail the information that the EPA will be collecting are available in the public docket for this ICR. The docket can be viewed online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or in person at the EPA Docket Center, WJC West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC. The telephone number for the Docket Center is 202-566-1744. For additional information about EPA's public docket, visit <http://www.epa.gov/dockets>.

Pursuant to section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA, EPA is soliciting comments and information to enable it 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. EPA will consider the comments received and amend the ICR as appropriate. The final ICR package will then be submitted to OMB for

review and approval. At that time, EPA will issue another **Federal Register** notice to announce the submission of the ICR to OMB and the opportunity to submit additional comments to OMB.

*Abstract:* The EPA uses contractors to perform services throughout the nation with regard to environmental emergencies involving the release, or threatened release, of oil, radioactive materials, or hazardous chemicals that may potentially affect communities and the surrounding environment. The Agency may request contractors responding to any of these types of incidents to conduct background checks and apply Government-established suitability criteria in Title 5 CFR Administrative Personnel 731.104 *Appointments Subject to Investigation*, 732.201 *Sensitivity Level Designations and Investigative Requirements*, and 736.102 *Notice to Investigative Sources* when determining whether employees are acceptable to perform on given sites or on specific projects. In addition to emergency response contractors, EPA may require background checks for contractor personnel working in sensitive sites or sensitive projects. The background checks and application of the Government's suitability criteria must be completed prior to contract employee performance. The contractor shall maintain records associated with all background checks. Background checks cover citizenship or valid visa status, criminal convictions, weapons offenses, felony convictions, and parties prohibited from receiving federal contracts.

*Form numbers:* None.

*Respondents/affected entities:* Private Contractors.

*Respondent's obligation to respond:* Required to obtain a benefit per Title 5 CFR Administrative Personnel 731.104 *Appointments Subject to Investigation*, 732.201 *Sensitivity Level Designations and Investigative Requirements*, and 736.102 *Notice to Investigative Sources*.

*Estimated number of respondents:* 1,000 (total).

*Frequency of response:* Annual.

*Total estimated burden:* 1,000 hours (per year). Burden is defined at 5 CFR 1320.03(b).

*Total estimated cost:* \$195,070 (per year), includes \$0 annualized capital or operation & maintenance costs.

*Changes in estimates:* There is no change in the hours in the total estimated respondent burden compared with the ICR currently approved by OMB.