

electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system automatically captures your e-mail address. E-mail addresses that are automatically captured by EPA's e-mail system are included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket.

iii. Disk or CD ROM. You may submit comments on a disk or CD ROM that you mail to the mailing address identified in Section I.B.2. These electronic submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect or ASCII file format. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

2. By Mail. Send four of copies of your comments to: Water Docket, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail code: #4101T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20460, Attention Docket ID No. (please use appropriate Docket ID number, either) OW-2002-0063, OW-2002-0064, or OW-2002-0065.

3. By Hand Delivery or Courier. Deliver your comments to: EPA Docket Center, EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, Attention Docket ID No. (please use appropriate Docket ID number, either) OW-2002-0063, OW-2002-0064, or OW-2002-0065. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation as identified in Section I.A.1.

C. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Comments for EPA?

You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your comments:

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.
2. Describe any assumptions that you used.
3. Provide any technical information and/or data you used that support your views.
4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at your estimate.
5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
6. Offer alternatives.
7. Make sure to submit your comments by the comment period deadline identified.
8. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate docket identification number in the subject line on the first page of your response. It would also be helpful if you provided the name, date, and **Federal Register** citation related to your comments.

D. What Information Is EPA Particularly Interested In?

Pursuant to section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA, EPA specifically solicits

comments and information to enable it to:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility.
2. Evaluate the accuracy of the Agency's estimates of the burdens of the proposed collections of information.
3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
4. Minimize the burden of the collections of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated or electronic collection technologies or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

II. List of ICRs Planned To Be Submitted

In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that EPA is planning to submit the following three continuing Information Collection Requests (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB):

- (1) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and Sewage Sludge Management State Program Requirements, EPA ICR No. 0168.07, OMB Control No. 2040-0057, expiring on April 30, 2003.
- (2) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Modification and Variance Requests, EPA ICR No. 0029.08, OMB Control No. 2040-0068, expiring on April 30, 2003.
- (3) Applications for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Discharge Permits and the Sewage Sludge Management Permits, EPA ICR No. 0226.17, OMB Control No. 2040-0086, expiring on April 30, 2003.

A. Contact Individual for ICRs

For all three ICRs, please contact: Jack Faulk, Industrial Branch, Water Permits Division, Office of Wastewater Management; tel.: (202) 564-0768, fax: (202) 564-6431; or e-mail: faulk.jack@epa.gov.

B. Individual ICRs

(1) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and Sewage Sludge Management State Program Requirements, EPA ICR No. 0168.07, OMB Control No. 2040-0057, expiring on April 30, 2003.

Affected Entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are those State and Tribal governments and governments of U.S. Territories that are

authorized by EPA to administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permitting Program.

Abstract: Under the NPDES program, States, Federally Recognized Indian Tribes, and U.S. Territories, hereafter referred to as States, may acquire the authority to issue permits. States that administer NPDES programs are also required to obtain pretreatment authority (authority to require publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) to establish pretreatment programs and to require that indirect dischargers meet pretreatment standards) and authority to issue permits to federal facilities. These governments have the option of acquiring authority to issue general permits (permits that cover a category or categories of similar discharges). States with existing NPDES programs must submit requests for program modifications to add pretreatment, Federal facilities, or general permit authority. In addition, as federal statutes and regulations are modified, States must submit program modifications to ensure that their program continues to meet Federal requirements.

States have the option of obtaining a sludge management program. This program may be a component of a State NPDES Program, or it may be administered as a separate program. To obtain a NPDES or sludge program, a State must submit an application that includes a program description, an Attorney General's Statement, draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the EPA Region, and copies of the State's statutes and regulations.

Once a State obtains authority for an NPDES or sludge program, it becomes responsible for implementing the program in that jurisdiction. The State must retain records on the permittees and perform inspections. In addition, when a State obtains NPDES or sludge authority, EPA must oversee the program. Thus, States must submit permit information and compliance reports to the EPA.

When EPA issues a permit in an unauthorized State, that State must certify that the permit requirements comply with State water laws. According to the Clean Water Act (CWA) (section 510), States may adopt discharge requirements that are equal to or more stringent than requirements in the CWA or Federal regulations.

The purpose of this ICR is to revise and extend the current recordkeeping and reporting requirements associated with State NPDES and sludge programs. There are three categories of reporting requirements that are covered by this ICR. The first category, "State Program