

Requests,” includes the activities States must complete to request a new NPDES or sludge program, or to modify an existing program. The second category, “State Program Implementation,” includes the activities that approved States must complete to implement an existing program, and also certification requirements for non-NPDES States. The third category, “State Program Oversight,” includes activities required of NPDES States so that EPA may satisfy its statutory requirements for state program oversight. The information collected by EPA is used to evaluate the adequacy of States’ NPDES or sludge program and to provide EPA with the information necessary to fulfill its statutory oversight functions over State program performance and individual permit actions. EPA will use this information to evaluate States’ requests for full or partial program approval and program modifications. In order to evaluate the adequacy of a State’s proposed program, appropriate information must be provided to ensure that proper procedures, regulations, and statutes are in place and consistent with the CWA requirements.

Burden Statement: The public reporting and burden for collecting information is estimated to average 966,966 hours annually. EPA estimates an average of 19,226 responses each year.

This estimate includes the time required to review the instructions, search existing data sources, gather and maintain all necessary data, and complete and review the information collected. The respondents are the 50 States, 7 U.S. Territories, and 567 Federally-Recognized Indian Tribes (of which 45 States and 1 Territory are authorized to administer the NPDES Program); the burden per respondent is variable although the majority of the burden is on the 45 States and 1 Territory that are authorized to administer the NPDES Program.

(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.

Affected Entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are NPDES permit applicants that request a variance from the conditions that would normally be imposed on the applicant’s discharge or NPDES permittees that request a modification of the NPDES or sewage sludge management permit conditions.

Abstract: This ICR calculates the burden and costs associated with modifications and variances made to NPDES permits and to the National

Sewage Sludge Management Program permit requirements. The regulations specified at 40 CFR 122.62 and 122.63 specify information a facility must report in order for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to determine whether a permit modification is warranted. A NPDES permit applicant may request a variance from the conditions that would normally be imposed on the applicant’s discharge. An applicant must submit information so the permitting authority can assess whether the facility is eligible for a variance, and what deviation from Clean Water Act (CWA) provisions is necessary. In general, EPA and authorized States use the information to determine whether: (1) The conditions or requirements that would warrant a modification or variance exist, and (2) the progress toward achieving the goals of the Clean Water Act will continue if the modification or variance is granted. Other uses for the information provided include: Updating records on permitted facilities, supporting enforcement actions, and overall program management, including policy and budget development and responding to Congressional inquiries.

Burden Statement: EPA estimates that a total of 13,091 NPDES permittees will submit Modification and Variance Requests each year. Nationally, NPDES permittees will spend 57,051 hours collecting information for and preparing these requests. Each permittee submitting a request will spend an average of 4.36 hours preparing a request (57,051 burden hours divided by 13,091 permittees). However, there is a wide range in the actual time spent on the preparation of modification and variance requests.

State government burden is also a respondent burden for this ICR. Total State government burden hours for the 45 States and 1 Territory authorized to administer the NPDES Program are estimated to be 246,946 for reviewing and approving these modification and variance requests.

The total respondent burden hours are 303,997 for 13,137 respondents.

(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.

Affected entities: Publicly owned treatment works (POTWs), privately owned treatment works, new and existing manufacturing and commercial dischargers, storm water dischargers, treatment works treating domestic sewage (TWTDS), and other entities that apply for NPDES permits.

Abstract: This ICR calculates the burden and costs associated with permit applications for NPDES discharges and sewage sludge management activities. EPA uses the data contained in applications and supplemental information requests to set appropriate permit conditions, issue permits, and assess permit compliance. EPA maintains certain national application information in databases, that assists permit writers in determining permit conditions. For most permits, EPA has developed standard application forms. In some cases, such as requests for additional information and storm water applications from municipal separate sewer systems, standard forms do not exist because standard forms are not appropriate for the information collected or because they have not been developed. Application forms correspond to the different types of applicants, each form requesting information necessary for issuing permits to the associated applicants. Applicants include POTWs, privately owned treatment works, new and existing manufacturing and commercial dischargers, storm water dischargers, TWTDS, and others. Depending on the application form they are using, applicants may be required to supply information about their facilities, discharges, treatment systems, sewage sludge use and disposal practices, pollutant sampling data, or other relevant information. Section 308 of the Clean Water Act authorized EPA to request from dischargers any information that may be reasonably required to carry out the objectives and provisions of the Act. Under this authority, EPA sometimes requests information supplemental to that contained in permit applications. In its burden and cost calculations, this ICR includes requests for information supplemental to permit applications. Other parts of the Clean Water Act and federal regulations authorize EPA to collect information that supplements permit applications, such as section 403(c). This ICR calculates the burden and costs for all information collection activities associated with applications for permits. Application information is necessary to obtain an NPDES or sewage sludge permit.

Burden Statement: The total respondent burden nation-wide for the Applications for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Discharge Permits and the Sewage Sludge Management Permits is 1,306,704 burden hours for 291,898 permittee respondents per year. Additionally, the 45 State and 1 Territory respondents