

copyrighted material, will be available in the public docket.

Public comments submitted on computer disks that are mailed or delivered to the docket will be transferred to EPA's electronic public docket. Public comments that are mailed or delivered to the Docket will be scanned and placed in EPA's electronic public docket. Where practical, physical objects will be photographed, and the photograph will be placed in EPA's electronic public docket along with a brief description written by the docket staff.

C. How and to Whom Do I Submit Comments?

You may submit comments electronically, by mail, or through hand delivery/courier. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate docket identification number in the subject line on the first page of your comment. Please ensure that your comments are submitted within the specified comment period. Comments received after the close of the comment period will be marked "late." EPA is not required to consider these late comments.

1. *Electronically.* If you submit an electronic comment as prescribed below, EPA recommends that you include your name, mailing address, and an e-mail address or other contact information in the body of your comment. Also include this contact information on the outside of any disk or CD ROM you submit, and in any cover letter accompanying the disk or CD ROM. This ensures that you can be identified as the submitter of the comment and allows EPA to contact you in case EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties or needs further information on the substance of your comment. EPA's policy is that EPA will not edit your comment, and any identifying or contact information provided in the body of a comment will be included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment.

i. *EPA Dockets.* Your use of EPA's electronic public docket to submit comments to EPA electronically is EPA's preferred method for receiving comments. Go directly to EPA Docket at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket>, and follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once in the system, select "search," and then key in Docket ID No. OW-2002-0051. The system is an

"anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity, e-mail address, or other contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment.

ii. *E-mail.* Comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to OW-Docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket ID No. OW-2002-0051. In contrast to EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system is not an "anonymous access" system. If you send an e-mail comment directly to the Docket without going through EPA's 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.C.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 an original and three copies of your comments to: Water Docket, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code: 4101T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC, 20460, Attention Docket ID No. OW-2002-0051.

3. *By Hand Delivery or Courier.* Deliver your comments to: Water Docket, Environmental Protection Agency, EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC, Attention Docket ID No. OW-2002-0051. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation as identified in Section I.B.1.

D. 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.

II. What Information Collection Activity or ICR Does This Action Apply to?

EPA is seeking comments on the following ICR:

Title: Drinking Water Regulations Compliance and Cost Retrospective Survey (EPA ICR No. 2101.01).

Abstract: The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) (1412(b)) requires EPA to analyze the costs related to the promulgation of drinking water regulations. Since the reauthorization of SDWA in 1996, EPA has proposed and promulgated national primary drinking water regulations for several contaminants. Each of these final and proposed rules has a supporting "Economic Analysis," which includes an analysis of compliance costs. The cost analysis includes capital and operations and maintenance (O&M) costs for treatment and other compliance measures taken by systems with Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violations or from systems that are subject to treatment technique requirements, as well as costs related to start-up, training and monitoring for all regulated systems.

Key to the accurate estimation of costs is an understanding of the compliance decision process of Public Water Systems (PWS). In this survey, EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) plans to collect information from PWSs on their compliance decisions and associated costs for a set of rulemakings. A compliance decision is a decision made in direct response to the implementation of a drinking water regulation to come into compliance with the regulation. Examples of compliance decisions include installing a new treatment technology; modifying an existing treatment technology; using a non-treatment approach; and, finding a new water source. EPA plans to collect information on which compliance alternatives were considered, and which were chosen from that set of alternatives, along with information on associated capital, operating and maintenance, and add-on costs. Responses are voluntary and will not be considered confidential. EPA plans to use the results of the survey to update its cost estimation process for future rulemakings.