

which is provisional and subject to evolution, is that no more than 6 months from the completion of 6 × coverage of the sequence for a single-genome project, the data will be released on the JGI web site or to a publicly accessible database with no use restrictions. For microbial community projects, the JGI will conduct normal QA/QC assessments on the sequence output (at approximately 2 × coverage), then discuss with the proposer(s) and with BER staff the extent to which sequencing will be continued to achieve a satisfactory genomic “view” of the selected microbial community. From the time of initiation of this discussion, not more than 6 months will be permitted to elapse before unconditional release of these data. BER is fully aware that some ambiguity remains in the precise initiation of this “embargo” period but stresses its intention and commitment to the rapid release, without any use restrictions, of this data into publicly accessible databases.

Upon selection of a nominated microbial sequencing target, BER expects that Principal Investigators will collaborate with the JGI by providing high quality, high MW genomic DNA for library construction as well as assisting in annotating the draft sequence data until a sufficiently complete annotation is achieved (understanding that this will be sensitive to hypothetical gene predictions and the usual uncertainties of annotation). Following data acquisition and annotation, DOE expects that those whose nominations have been sequenced will make good faith efforts to publish in the open scientific literature the results of their subsequent work, including both the genome sequences of the organisms sequenced under this notice as well as the annotation. (BER also expects the Principal Investigator of a selected effort to either deposit a culture of the microbe or consortium into a publicly accessible collection or repository, or make it available directly so others can have access). These parties are encouraged to create process- and cost-effective partnerships that will maximize data production and analysis, data dissemination, and progress towards understanding basic biological mechanisms that can further the aims of this effort. Additionally, it must be explicitly understood that DOE will provide an assembled and computationally annotated draft (roughly 6 ×; carried out in a paired-end sequencing approach) sequence of the microbe(s) selected, but that research using that sequence data should be funded from separate sources and/or

separate solicitations. Finally, there is no commitment to finish a given drafted sequence, although this option may be considered at a later time.

Submission Information: Interested parties should submit a brief white paper to either of the foci given above, consisting of not more than 5 pages of narrative exclusive of attachments (which are discouraged) responding to each of the specific criteria set forth. Electronic submission (to joanne.corcoran@science.doe.gov and daniel.drell@science.doe.gov) is strongly encouraged. It is expected that the Principal Investigator will serve as the main point of contact for additional information on the nominated microbe. Nominations must contain a very short abstract or project summary and a cover page with the name of the applicant, mailing address, phone, fax, and email. The nomination should include 2-page curriculum vitae of the key investigators; letters of intent from collaborators (suggesting the size of the interested community) are permitted.

Nominations will be reviewed relative to the scope and research needs of the BER relevant programs cited above. A brief response to each nomination will be provided electronically following merit and programmatic reviews.

Other useful Web sites include:

DOE JGI Microbial Sequencing Priorities for FY2003—<http://www.ornl.gov/microbialgenomes/seq2003.html>

Microbial Genome Program Home Page—<http://www.sc.doe.gov/ober/microbial.html>

DOE Joint Genome Institute Microbial Web Page—http://www.jgi.doe.gov/JGI_microbial/html/

GenBank Home Page—<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>

Human Genome Home Page—<http://www.ornl.gov/hgmis>

DOE Genomes to Life—<http://DOEGenomesToLife.org>

DOE Natural and Accelerated Bioremediation Research (NABIR) Program—<http://www.lbl.gov/nabir>

Biotechnology Investigations—Ocean Margins Program—<http://www.sc.doe.gov/ober/GC/omp.html>

Issued in Washington, DC, May 14, 2003.

John Rodney Clark,

Associate Director of Science for Resource Management.

[FR Doc. 03-12715 Filed 5-20-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OW-2003-0026, FRL-7501-4]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; National Water Quality Inventory Reports (Clean Water Act Sections 305(b), 303(d), 314(a), and 106(e))

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency

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): National Water Quality Inventory Reports (Clean Water Act Sections 305(b), 303(d), 314(a), and 106(e)); EPA ICR Number 1560.07, OMB Control Number 2040-0071, expiring on July 31, 2003. 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 July 21, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Follow the detailed instructions in **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Wilson, Assessment and Watershed Protection Division, Office of Water, Mail Code: 4503T, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: 202-566-2385; fax number: 202-566-1331; e-mail address: Wilson.John@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA has established a public docket for this ICR under Docket ID number OW-2003-0026, which is available for public viewing at the Water Docket in the EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Water Docket is (202) 566-2426. An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA Dockets (EDOCKET) at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket>. Use EDOCKET to obtain a copy of the draft collection of information, submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the public