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**Affected entities:** Entities potentially affected by this action are States, Territories and Tribes with Clean Water Act (CWA) responsibilities.

**Title:** National Water Quality Inventory Reports (Clean Water Act Sections 305(b), 303(d), 314(a), and 106(e)). (OMB Control Number 2040-0071; EPA ICR Number 1560.07 expiring 07/31/2003).

**Abstract:** Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires States to identify and rank waters which cannot meet water quality standards (WQS) following the implementation of technology-based controls. Under section 303(d), States are also required to establish total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for listed waters not meeting standards as a result of pollutant discharges. In developing the section 303(d) lists, States are required to consider various sources of water quality related data and information, including the section 305(b) State water quality reports. The

section 305(b) reports contain information on the extent of water quality degradation, the pollutants and sources affecting water quality, and State progress in controlling water pollution.

EPA's Assessment and Watershed Protection Division (AWPD) works with its Regional counterparts to review and approve or disapprove State section 303(d) lists and TMDLs from 56 respondents (the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the five Territories). Section 303(d) specifically requires States to develop lists and TMDLs "from time to time" and EPA to review and approve or disapprove the lists and the TMDLs. EPA also collects State 305(b) reports from 59 respondents (the 50 States, the District of Columbia, five Territories, and 3 River Basin commissions).

This announcement includes the reapproval of current, ongoing activities related to 305(b) and 303(d) reporting and TMDL development for the period of August 1, 2003 through July 31, 2006. During the period covered by this ICR renewal, respondents will: complete their 2004 305(b) reports and 2004 303(d) lists; complete their 2006 305(b) reports and 2006 303(d) lists; transmit annual electronic updates of their 305(b) databases in 2003 through 2006; and continue to develop TMDLs according to their established schedules. EPA will prepare two biennial Reports to Congress: one in 2003 and one in 2005, and EPA will review TMDL submissions from respondents.

The respondent community for 305(b) reporting consists of 50 States, the District of Columbia, 5 Territories (Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands), and 3 River Basin Commissions. The Ohio River Valley Sanitation Commission, the Delaware River Basin Commission, and the Interstate Sanitation Commission have jurisdiction over basins that lie in multiple States. Indian Tribes are exempt from the 305(b) reporting requirement, but some Tribes choose to participate as a way of presenting assessments and water quality issues to the public and Congress. One Tribe or Tribal Group prepared 305(b) reports in 1996 and 1997. However, since Tribal 305(b) reporting is a voluntary effort, it is not included in the burden estimates for this ICR.

The respondent community for 303(d) activities consists of 50 States, the District of Columbia, and 5 Territories (Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands). Although Indian Tribes are not exempt from 303(d)

requirements, there is not a process currently in place to designate them for this purpose. Further, very few Tribes have established water quality standards, and EPA is currently in the process of preparing standards where they are needed. Therefore, we assume that there would be no burden to Indian Tribes over the period covered by this ICR for 303(d) activities.

The burden of specific activities that States undertake as part of their 305(b) and 303(d) programs are derived from an ongoing project among EPA, States and other interested stakeholders to develop a tool for estimating the States' resource needs for State water quality management programs. This project has developed the State Water Quality Management Workload Model (SWQMWM), which estimates and sums the workload involved in more than one hundred activities or tasks comprising a State water quality management program. Over twenty States have contributed information about their activities that became the basis for the model. According to the SWQMWM, the States will carry out the following activities or tasks to meet the 305(b) and 303(d) reporting requirements:

watershed characterization; modeling and analysis; development of a TMDL document for public review; public outreach; formal public participation; tracking; planning; legal support; etc. In general, respondents have conducted each of these reporting and record keeping activities for past 305(b) and 303(d) reporting cycles and thus have staff and procedures in place to continue their 305(b) and 303(d) reporting programs. The burden associated with these tasks is estimated in this ICR to include the total number of TMDLs that may be submitted during the period covered by this ICR.

The biennial frequency of the collection is mandated by section 305(b)(1) of the CWA. Section 305(b) originally required respondents to submit water quality reports on an annual basis. In 1977, the annual requirement was amended to a biennial requirement in the CWA. EPA has determined that abbreviated reporting for hard-copy 305(b) reports, combined with annual electronic reporting using respondent databases, will meet the CWA reporting requirements while reducing burden to respondents. The biennial period with annual electronic reporting ensures that information needed for analysis and water program decisions is reasonably current, yet abbreviated reporting requirements provides respondents with sufficient time to prepare the reports.