

How Does the Policy Relate to Environmental Justice?

This Policy complements and is consistent with EPA's environmental justice efforts. "Environmental Justice" is the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes, including minority and/or low-income communities and Tribes, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws and policies, and their meaningful involvement in the decision-making processes of the government. Environmental justice is achieved when everyone, regardless of race, culture or income, enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn and work. This includes ensuring greater public participation in the Agency's development and implementation of its regulations and policies. (Memorandum from EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman, dated August 9, 2001, "EPA's Commitment to Environmental Justice.") (See also, Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," dated February 11, 1994.) Thus, ensuring meaningful public involvement advances the goals of environmental justice.

EPA's Seven Basic Steps for Effective Public Involvement

The EPA should ensure that it conducts meaningful public involvement activities and implements all public involvement provisions required by statute.

There are seven basic steps to consider when planning for public involvement. Agency officials should exercise judgment and carefully consider the particular circumstances of each situation in determining how to carry out those steps. Agency staff and managers should strive to provide the most meaningful public involvement opportunities appropriate to each situation. Agency officials should consider the issues, locations, potential environmental and human health consequences of the activities, potential for controversy, specific needs of the public and the Agency, and other circumstances when designing public involvement processes. For instance, enhanced opportunities for public involvement should be created for those situations in which there is the potential for greater environmental or human health consequences or controversy. It is important to note that the Agency needs to set priorities for its use of resources, and that budgetary constraints may affect the implementation of any of these elements.

The seven basic steps for effective public involvement in any decision or activity are:

1. Plan and budget for public involvement activities.
2. Identify the interested and affected public.
3. Consider providing technical or financial assistance to the public to facilitate involvement.
4. Provide information and outreach to the public.
5. Conduct public consultation and involvement activities.

6. Review and use input and provide feedback to the public.

7. Evaluate public involvement activities. The recommended goals, actions and methods for each of these steps are described in Appendix 1, Guidance for Implementing Public Involvement at EPA, at <http://www.epa.gov/publicinvolvement/policy2003/guidance.pdf>.

Who Is Responsible for Managing the Application of This Policy?

Under the overall direction of the Administrator, and consistent with this policy, Assistant, Regional and Associate Administrators are responsible for ensuring that their managers and staff encourage and facilitate public involvement in programs and activities. Public involvement should be an integral part of any Agency program. Moreover, the Agency should strive to achieve public involvement that is commensurate with the potential impact of the activity. The Assistant, Regional or Associate Administrators should make certain that concerns about the adequacy of public involvement are heard and, where necessary, acted upon as resources allow. Managers should encourage and facilitate the proper training, support and counseling of staff, and, recognizing overall budgetary constraints, should plan for and provide adequate funding for training or other needs in their specific budgets. (See more detailed responsibilities section in Appendix 1 at <http://www.epa.gov/publicinvolvement/policy2003/guidance.pdf>.)

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission

May 28, 2003.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection(s), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) that does not display a valid control number. Comments are requested concerning (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility;

(b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted on or before July 7, 2003. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all Paperwork Reduction Act comments to Judith B. Herman, Federal Communications Commission, Room 1-C804, 445 12th Street, SW., DC 20554 or via the Internet to Judith-B.Herman@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or copies of the information collection(s), contact Judith B. Herman at (202) 418-0214 or via the Internet at Judith-B.Herman@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Control No.: 3060-1007.

Title: Streamlining and Other Revisions of Part 25 of the Commission's Rules.

Form No.: FCC Form 312, Schedule S.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 150 respondents; 971 responses.

Estimated Time Per Response: 10 hours (5 hours for outside legal assistance).

Frequency of Response: On occasion, annual, and other reporting requirements, third party disclosure requirement.

Total Annual Burden: 9,686 hours.

Total Annual Cost: \$95,194,000.

Needs and Uses: On May 19, 2003, the Commission released a First Report and Order (R&O) in IB Docket Nos. 02-34 and 02-54, FCC 03-102. The Report and Order adopts two different licensing frameworks for non-geostationary orbit (NGSO)-like systems and geostationary orbit (GSO)-like systems. The R&O requires that new licensees execute a bond in the amount of \$7.5 million for NGSO licensees and \$5 million for GSO licensees and submit the bond to the Commission within 30 days of license grant. The bond would discourage speculative applications without deterring legitimate satellite operators. The bond only applies to new satellite licensees only, not replacement satellites. The Report and Order results